

Hafa Adai!

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Are you and your home
prepared for a typhoon?

Let your voice be heard!
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PANDEMIC ALERT STATUS PHASE

6

As of August 17, 2009

Phase 6: The pandemic phase, is an indication that a global pandemic is underway.

For more information about the H1N1 flu, contact DPH at 236-8797, Monday to Friday, from 8am to 5pm, 234-8950 during after hours, e-mail cnniphc@gmail.com, or visit www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/.

Source: CNMI Department of Public Health, World Health Organization

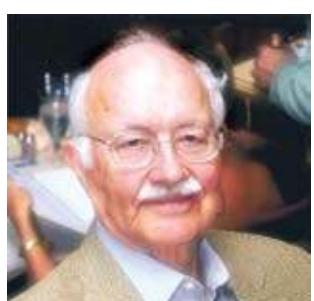
INSIDE



Stranded

Taiwan struggles to reach more than 1,000 people still stranded a week after Typhoon Morakot.

ASIA...Page 15



Philanthropist

Billionaire physicist buys rare objects so he could give them away.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 18

Tropical depression now a storm. PAGE 2
Man stabs roommate in fight over loud video game. PAGE 3

Japanese skulls from Saipan kept at Calif. museum stirs controversy

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The skeletal remains of several Japanese

soldiers or civilians who died on Saipan during World War II are being kept at the University of California Berkeley, stirring controversy because of its apparent

violation of the Geneva Conventions for the protection of war victims, the *San Francisco Chronicle* reports.

The Geneva Conventions consist of

four treaties and three additional protocols that set the standards in international law for humanitarian treatment of victims.

See JAPANESE on Page 4

1,500 patients avail of free clinic

Fireman allegedly sold NI mayor's boat engine

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A firefighter was arrested Friday for allegedly selling to another firefighter a boat engine that belonged to the Northern Islands Mayor's Office.

Combiniano Taisakan, 42, also known as Combin, was arrested for theft and possession or removal of government property.

The Office of the Attorney General's White Collar Crimes/Public Corruption Unit is investigating.

See FIREMAN on Page 4



Surgeon/dentist Dr. Jay Shirley and dental hygienist HM2 Cook perform a dental procedure on one of the patients yesterday at the Commonwealth Health Center.
NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

Liezl Dabu had a recurring toothache but because of limited budget and no medical insurance, she could do nothing but bear the constant pain.

However, upon learning of the free services being provided by the visiting 4th Medical Battalion, she immediately registered and was one of 1,500 patients the

See PATIENTS on Page 4

Drowning victim stuck between 2 rocks on sea floor

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Korean businessman who drowned after falling from a cliff line while fishing in Cow Town, Marpi, was found stuck between two rocks on the sea floor about 10 to 15 feet deep.

Han Department of Public Safety spokesman Jason T. Tarkong said yesterday

See DROWNING on Page 4



FAVORITE SPOT

Two boys rest in an abandoned building at the Garapan Fishing Base, a popular spot for festivities and community activities such as the Liberation Day carnival, the Tuesday night market, and guest workers' assemblies. A plan to make it a permanent site for a public market has long been stalled.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



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Local

Tropical depression now a storm

BY FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Tropical Depression 11W, seen near Pohnpei yesterday, was moving slowly toward the northern islands of the Commonwealth. Tropical Storm Maka remains near Wake Island but it may not move to the CNMI.

According to the CNMI Emergency Management Office, at 1pm yesterday, the Joint Typhoon Warning Center issued a warning on Tropical Depression 11W.

As of 1pm yesterday, Tropical Depression 11W was located north of Pohnpei near 13 degrees north 159 degrees east or about 940 miles east of Saipan and Guam.

"This system is steadily developing and is expected to intensify into a tropical storm within the next 12 to 24 hours," EMO said.

Weather forecast guidance indicates that Tropical Depression 11W will move slowly northwest over the next two to three days toward the northern islands of the CNMI.

The National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam, said that Tropical Depression 11W is moving west-northwest at 11 miles per hour with maximum sustained winds of 30 mph.

EMO said CNMI residents will experience more wet weather starting late Thursday night and northwest winds of 15 miles per hour.

Gov. Benigno Fitial reminded the public, including those on the northern islands of Agrihan, Alamagan and Pagan, to closely follow the progress of Tropical Depres-

sion 11W through the EMO and local media sources.

Fitial said changes in movement and intensity can often occur during the early stages of the storm's development.

As of 1pm yesterday, the center of Tropical Storm Maka was 440 miles east-southeast of Wake Island.

Moving west-northeast at 5 mph with maximum sustained winds at 40 mph, Tropical Storm Maka is expected to continue to move slowly northwest during the next 24 hours, according to the NWS.



A weekly update from the Marianas Visitors Authority
Tourism is everybody's business.

Does tourism affect you? How?

We asked some people, and here's what they had to say.



It's good for us. Tourists bring in money, and we get to see different kinds of people.

Lucy Rosario,
caretaker



Of course. My store is near Coral Ocean Point Resort and PIC. Sometimes tourists rent a scooter or bike, and they come here to buy chips or drinks, especially Japanese and Russians. Not a lot, but better than nothing. Also, if tourism is doing well, hotels can hire more local workers, who spend their paychecks at local stores.

Hyun Jun Choe,
market manager



Yes! Without tourists, there wouldn't be hotels for kids and their families to enjoy, too.

Issac Anderson,
student



Yes, it affects me, because tourists bring in money.

Jiro Takai,
student



Yes. I work in a hotel, so if we didn't have tourists, I couldn't work anymore.

Willy Tanaka,
food and beverage steward



It's best when tourism is strong, because when hotel employees have good salaries, they come to rent videos.

Edna Encio,
video clerk



So the next time you see a visitor, smile and give them a warm "hafa adai" welcome!

This Tourism Tuesday space is provided by Saipan Tribune

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Man stabs roommate in fight over loud video game

A 44-year-old man in Fina Sisu was stabbed several times, allegedly by his roommate, during an argument over the loud volume of a video game early yesterday morning.

The victim, a Chinese, sustained eight stab wounds on the back of the head, left forearm, right side of the chest, back, and right index finger. He is listed in stable condition at the Commonwealth Health Center.

The suspect, He Jiao, 28, a Chinese, was arrested for assault with a dangerous weapon. He was not injured.

Department of Public Safety spokesman Jason Tarkong stated that on Monday at 1am, po-

lice officers responded to CHC where the stabbing victim was being treated.

Tarkong said police learned that prior to the incident, the victim and Jiao had been drinking that night. The victim fell asleep and was awakened later by the loud volume of a video game. The victim confronted Jiao for the loud volume, triggering the fight.

Jiao allegedly got a knife from the kitchen and stabbed the victim repeatedly.

While police officers were conducting an investigation at the hospital, they spotted Jiao and arrested him. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

New law lifts restrictions on alcoholic beverage sampling

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial on Friday signed a law lifting some of the restrictions on alcoholic beverage sampling, but wants protection from legal liability for owners of the business premises where the samplings are to be held.

House Bill 16-240, introduced by Rep. Stanley Torres (R-Saipan), is now Public Law 16-44.

The new law, which amends P.L. 15-115, removes the limitation on the frequency of alcoholic beverage sampling activities or events.

Sampling activities or events may now be conducted at any on-sale or off-sale licensed establishment by the sampling licensee without any further restricting regulations and/or approval by the Department of Commerce's Alcoholic Beverage and Tobacco Control Division.

But Fitial, in his message to Senate President Pete P. Reyes (R-Saipan) and House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios (R-Saipan), said that while he commends the Legislature's intention to lighten the burden on licensees, the owners of the business premises in which alcoholic beverage samplings are to be conducted must be protected from any legal liability in the event of any accidents.

"As such, I approve the leg-

islation with instructions to the secretary of Commerce to issue a directive to all licensees wishing to conduct alcoholic beverage sampling to obtain waivers of liability from business owners of the premises in order to protect their interests," Fitial said.

Torres introduced the bill on May 8, and was passed by the House on first and final reading four days later. The bill cleared the Senate on July 1.

Despite lifting the restrictions on frequency of the sampling activities, the new law still limits the sampling to a maximum of four products at any one time.

In addition, no more than one bottle of each of the four products to be sampled may be displayed and opened at any one time, and samples given shall not be more than 2 ounces for each product sampled.

The new law requires all open bottles to be visible at all times and must be removed at the conclusion of the sampling activity.

The sampling must also be held in a designated tasting area within the establishment.

The law also does not allow any alcoholic beverage sample to be offered or allowed to be consumed by an intoxicated person or a person under 21 years old. This person is also not allowed to loiter in the premises.

Lastly, no person under 21 years old is allowed to conduct or participate in the sampling activity.

The sampling must also be held in a designated tasting area within the establishment.

According to EMO, FY 2009 funding will be used to developed tsunami inundation maps for Saipan and create a public awareness campaign through the schools and for the public. FY 2008 funding will be used to complete tsunami evacuation signs for Saipan.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial thanked EMO for securing these funds for the CNMI and urged EMO to comply with all grant requirements and complete all planned projects. (*PR*)

NMI awarded \$165K tsunami prep funds

is \$105,340.

According to EMO, FY 2009 funding will be used to developed tsunami inundation maps for Saipan and create a public awareness campaign through the schools and for the public. FY 2008 funding will be used to complete tsunami evacuation signs for Saipan.

Funding for these programs has been extended from July 31, 2009 to July 31, 2010.

The total funding for the FY2008 grant is \$59,750. The FY 2009 grant funding amount

said yesterday appropriate steps will be taken to ensure that the most qualified applicant for the 17 managerial and support staff positions are selected.

The Office of the Governor, through the Department of Commerce and the Office of Personnel Management, is expediting the announcement and filling of the positions because of the fast approaching start date of Census operations.

"All applicants are encouraged

Buckingham sworn in as new AG

Senate committee to 'review' confirmation of another nominee

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Edward T. Buckingham yesterday took his oath of office as the new CNMI attorney general, along with Jerry Crisostimo, who is the newest member of the NMI Retirement Fund board of trustees.

"Ed is off to a very good start and he is eager to work in earnest for the [Office of the Attorney General]," Press secretary Charles Reyes said.

One other appointee who was supposed to take his oath, Jose L. Itibus, didn't show up at the ceremony held before Gov. Benigno R. Fitial began his weekly Cabinet meeting.

Fitial reappointed Itibus to serve on the Commonwealth Election Commission board.

When contacted by *Saipan Tribune* by phone yesterday afternoon, Itibus said he didn't know about the swearing-in ceremony and refused to be interviewed further.

The Senate confirmed the nomination of Buckingham, Crisostimo and Itibus Friday morning, a few days after their names were sent by Fitial.

Gregorio Cruz, president of local advocacy group Taotao Tano, raised concern about Itibus' quick confirmation. He said the senators—particularly the Senate Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigation—should have done a thorough background check before recommending Itibus' confirmation.

Commonwealth Election Commission executive director Robert A. Guerrero said his office is not aware of the allegations lodged by Cruz, particularly a criminal case, but said that anybody is innocent until



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, left, swears in Edward T. Buckingham as the new CNMI attorney general.

nal case against Itibus.

The Senate EAGI Committee recommended the confirmation of Itibus' re-appointment to the election board.

When asked for comments yesterday, Senate EAGI Committee chair Sen. Paterno S. Hocog (R-Rota) said he did not know about a pending criminal case against Itibus but said his committee will further review Itibus' background.

He said the committee may recommend a "recall" of the confirmation, if needed.

Other senators who received a copy of Cruz's letter said they have yet to verify whether the Jose L. Itibus who was charged with conspiracy and theft in July is the same person confirmed by the Senate on Friday.

Commonwealth Election Commission executive director Robert A. Guerrero said his office is not aware of the allegations lodged by Cruz, particularly a criminal case, but said that anybody is innocent until

proven guilty.

Rep. Tina Sablan (Ind-Saipan), when asked for comment, said that, had the Senate EAGI Committee "done a more careful and rigorous background investigation, then we would know today whether or not we are talking about the same Jose L. Itibus."

Sablan said she has not been able to verify that the Jose L. Itibus who was charged with conspiracy and theft in July is the same Jose L. Itibus who was confirmed by the Senate on Friday.

Sablan said the Senate "can and should do a much better job than it has thus far in screening candidates for critical government boards and commissions."

"I do not mean this only in regards to Mr. Itibus, but in regards to nearly all gubernatorial appointments that I have seen thus far," she said.

The Senate EAGI Committee's Standing Committee

Report 16-66 recommending Itibus' confirmation only states that Itibus had submitted his drug test receipt and Statement of Financial Interest with the Office of the Public Auditor.

The committee report also said it examined Itibus' education, credentials, comments received and other information, but wrongly referred to him as "Mr. Agulto."

Sablan took note of this, too. She said the committee report is basically a "cut and paste job" from previous committee reports recommending confirmations—"a fact that is made painfully evident by the error in the Itibus report, in which it is stated that 'Mr. Agulto will be a valuable asset on this vital Commission.'

"The Election Commission is indeed a vital commission. The Senate confirmation process should reflect how seriously we take the vital functions served by this commission, and all other boards and commissions of the government," said Sablan.

17 managers, support staff needed for Census 2010

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The government will soon announce the opening of 17 managerial and support staff positions in time for the Oct. 1 start of the 2010 Census operations.

But the bulk of the hires—which may number around 300 at its peak—will not occur until early 2010. They would include enumerators, crew leaders and crew leader assistants.

Press secretary Charles Reyes said yesterday appropriate steps will be taken to ensure that the most qualified applicant for the 17 managerial and support staff positions are selected.

The Office of the Governor, through the Department of Commerce and the Office of Personnel Management, is expediting the announcement and filling of the positions because of the fast approaching start date of Census operations.

aged to submit their application as soon as possible," Reyes said.

The 2010 Census is a count of everyone living in the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, the CNMI and the U.S. Virgin Islands, and is mandated by the U.S. Constitution. The first Census was conducted in 1790 and has been carried out every 10 years since then.

Census data are used to distribute congressional seats to states, to distribute more than \$400 billion in federal funds to local, state and tribal governments each year, and to make decisions about what community services to provide.

The 17 positions that need to be filled soon include that of a local Census office manager, assistant manager for field operations, assistant manager for office operations, assistant manager for administration, partnership/media specialist, geographic specialist, and a se-

curity officer.

Also needed are an administrative assistant, access controller, office operation supervisor for other office operations, office operation supervisor for automation, office operation supervisor for payroll/recruitment, and a clerk/partnership specialist.

The government also needs two clerks for payroll/personnel, and two clerks for stocks/supply/packing.

"All individuals interested in applying for the available positions are encouraged to pick up and submit all applications and corresponding documents [resume, police clearance, etc.] to OPM. All further inquiries

regarding the said positions should be directed to OPM," Reyes said.

In the CNMI and elsewhere in the nation, Census 2010 day is set for April 1, 2010.

Census 2000 put the CNMI's population count at 69,221, from only 43,345 during Census 1990.

In July, the U.S. Census Bureau announced that the printing of the 2010 Census questionnaires are underway.

The new questionnaire, which every residential address will receive, is designed to be one of the shortest since the first census in 1790, asking just 10 questions and taking about 10 minutes to complete.

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RP consul urges workers to prepare for federalization

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

Philippine Consul General Medardo G. Macaraig told Filipinos in the CNMI to remain calm but at the same time be prepared for federalization, including the possible loss of jobs.

This is where the skills trainings being provided by the consulate could come into use, Macaraig said. What

ever these workers learned in the trainings could be used when they go back home or when they go to other countries, if not on Saipan.

Macaraig administered Sunday the confirmation of 98 graduates of the consulate's skills improvement training and livelihood program at the Hibiscus Hall of Fiesta Resort and Spa.

"I can see how you are experiencing hardships on Saipan. We have this

federalization and the global crisis and I can feel how you love Saipan as well," Macaraig said in Tagalog to some 150 Filipino workers, including graduates and some of their family members and guests.

He said the training program is a good opportunity for Filipino workers to learn new skills, especially in these hard economic times.

He said whatever they have learned

from the courses will not be taken from them and may even be shared with others.

The new graduates finished four courses—basic sewing, basic computer operations II, basic Nihonggo and commercial cooking—that were held during the past eight consecutive Saturdays or Sundays.

This reintegration program is a special project of the Philippine Consulate and the Philippine Overseas Labor Office in cooperation with Overseas Workers Welfare Administration.

Joining Macaraig during the graduation ceremonies were POLO Representative Joan Lourdes Lavilla and Welfare Officer Reynaldo Tayag and volunteer instructors Maria Teresa A. De Jesus (sewing), Crispulo B. Hilario Jr. (computer), Leopoldo O. Rodriguez Jr. (Nihonggo) and Hermie Coronejo (cooking).

One of the graduates, Marlon E. Regaton of the Nihonggo class, said this was his first time to avail of this free training and the skills he learned would

help him with his present job.

Regaton is a sales manager for an antique shop, Fu Dogs & Qi, whose clients are mostly Japanese and Korean.

Like most other graduates, Regaton said he joined the program not just to learn how to speak Japanese but to also interact with other people and gain more friends.

Three of his classmates, Leonida Carlos, Judith Medalle and Winie Ann Tagudan, work as bartenders at Kimchi Cabana, whose customers are also mostly Japanese and Korean.

"It really helps us and we enjoyed attending the class," Carlos said.

For commercial cooking graduate Anita Wahing, who works at Saipan Grand Hotel, she said it was the fourth time she completed a course. She previously finished sewing, Nihonggo and baking.

She said she keeps attending them because there is no other place in the world for this kind of opportunity. And if her contract is renewed, she wants to enroll again, perhaps in food processing.

SSHS to continue 5th period sessions in new school year

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

In anticipation of increased enrollment next month, Saipan Southern High School has decided to continue holding fifth periods to avert overcrowding in classrooms, according to acting principal Craig Garrison.

SSHS initiated the idea last year—the first public school to do so—to enable students to meet all credit requirements.

Garrison projects about 850 enrollees in school year 2009-2010, which starts on Sept. 8. This is a significant increase from last school year's record of 723.

Garrison said freshmen from Hopwood Junior High School will comprise a big bulk of their enrollment figures.

"Our enrollment projection is about 850 and the big number will be in the freshmen level. We're expecting majority of junior high school graduates of Hopwood will come to us starting next month," he told *Saipan Tribune*, adding that transferees from private schools on island are also expected.

Fifth period classes are from 3:15pm to 4:45pm each day on campus.

The acting principal said that because of its positive effect on students, they have decided to continue with

this fifth period session.

Saipan Tribune learned that the six teachers who handled the classes were later provided a pay differential by the Public School System.

Garrison emphasized that these six teachers took on this additional load without monetary considerations but for their commitment to student learning.

At present, SSHS has 32 teaching staff—enough to accommodate the expected enrollees. However, Garrison said SSHS needs a counselor.

Despite the challenges every year, Garrison said the school remains committed in its mission to put "Students First."

that Taisakan sold the boat engine to firefighter George Rios and his wife Sayuri Rios for \$300 between June 6 and August 2007.

The Rios couple made two separate payments of \$140 to Taisakan.

Sayuri Rios told investigators that while she was cleaning the boat engine she uncovered a CNMI tag number imprinted on it, prompting her to call her husband.

Sayuri Rios told her husband to return the engine and get the money back because she believes it is government property.

Taisakan agreed to pick up the engine, but he did not return the money. Sayuri Rios decided to complain to Commissioner Tudela.

George Rios said he likes to go fishing and had asked Taisakan if he knows of anyone selling a boat engine.

Taisakan told George Rios that he was actually selling his boat engine for \$400 to \$600. The defendant, however, agreed to sell the engine to Rios for \$300.

George Rios said that, while clean-

ing the engine, he also noticed the CNMI tag number embedded on the engine's cover.

According to Santos' investigation, Taisakan told Sgt. Flores he owns the engine after buying it from Roland Johnson of Micronesian Marine in 2007. But Johnson denied selling the engine to Taisakan.

Santos said that further investigation showed that the engine is in fact still the property of the Northern Islands Mayor's Office and is still under the active property inventory listing obtained from Procurement and Supply.

The boat engine was purchased for \$1,410 from Micronesian Marine (Saipan) on Oct. 17, 2001.

Sayuri Rios quoted Taisakan as saying that his brother, Northern Islands Mayor Valentin Taisakan, has the \$140 because it was the mayor who asked him to sell the engine.

When Sayuri Rios met with Mayor Taisakan, however, the mayor denied this and said he was also looking for the engine.

given eyeglasses.

"This is where a lot of the activities are going on. The patients avail of dental procedures that they don't normally have," said Sgt. Major David E. Fox, spokesman for the 37 crew members that include 12 professional staff, support technicians, administrators and managers.

Fox said they have received a tremendous welcome from the islands.

"It's a healthy activity and interaction with the local community [is] amazing," he said.

The 4th Medical Battalion will be at the Commonwealth Health Center until Friday.

The free clinic is part of the Innovative Readiness Training for the battalion.

IRT officer-in-charge Capt. Anita M. Kobuszewski said that, besides the 1,000 patients who came for dental procedures, they also attended to some 500 for medical check-ups.

Kobuszewski said the common diagnoses were hypertension, diabetes mellitus, dermatological condition, and obesity. She said they also saw a good number of prescriptions for eyeglasses.

She said the turnout is reflective of the population and the common diagnoses they have seen is also common in the U.S.

Kobuszewski said the crew is thankful to CHC's Dr. Florian Bragg for his pivotal role in this effort.

"He has done a fabulous job," Kobuszewski said.

The crew also thanked the Seventh Day Adventist for providing supplies for the dental procedures.

The crew also did some rounds at the hospital Wednesday last week and helped perform surgical operations.

"We appreciate their warm welcome and we are happy to serve them," she said.

call about a possible drowning incident.

Three Boating Safety officers led by Kaipat responded on a rescue boat to Cow Town. At 4pm, Boating Safety Dive and Rescue police officers arrived outside the reef line of Cow Town where they saw several uniformed officers and fire rescue personnel on the cliff line.

The officers directed the attention of the members of the dive rescue team to further north.

Tarkong said it was Boating Safety Officer Emery Kaipat who dove into the water and retrieved the victim's body.

Han was pulled into the rescue boat and CPR was administered for several minutes, but he never regained consciousness.

Boating Safety officers transported Han to Smiling Cove where Department of Public Safety medics brought him to the Commonwealth Health Center's emergency room.

A doctor pronounced Han dead at 4:45pm. Fluid was found in his lungs, and drowning was listed as the cause of death.

Tarkong said that, on Saturday at 2:36pm, DPS Central sent emergency personnel to Cow Town after receiving a

The Japan Consulate on Saipan said yesterday it does not have any comment on the issue right now. Japanese Consul Tsutomu Higuchi is currently off island and won't be back until later this week.

The Battle of Saipan in June and July 1944 was one of the fiercest during the war.

According to Japan figures, some 43,000 Japanese soldiers and 12,000 civilians, including children, died on Saipan that time. The U.S. and local death toll totaled nearly 3,500 soldiers and over 900 islanders, including infants and elderly.

Thousands of Japanese jumped to their death on Saipan rather than surrender to American forces.

Officials at the UC Berkeley's Phoebe A. Hearst Museum of Anthropology, according to the *Chronicle*, note that its cache of human remains from overseas is a valuable resource for osteology—the study of bones.

FIREMAN

From Page 1

ruption Task Force served the arrest warrant on Taisakan at the Department of Public Safety's Fire Station on Capital Hill where he was assigned.

Taisakan was brought to the Superior Court yesterday for a bail hearing. Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo imposed a \$500 cash bail for his temporary liberty. Arraignment was set for Aug. 31.

That same day, task force agents searched a residence in Dandan Homestead where they seized the boat engine.

Task force investigator Juan Santos said it was Police Sgt. Joseph Flores of DPS Professional Standard Unit who referred a theft complaint involving Taisakan on April 28, 2009.

Santos said DPS Commissioner Santiago Tudela instructed Flores to refer the complaint to the OAG's White Collar Crimes Unit.

Santos said investigation showed

PATIENTS

From Page 1

medical battalion has attended to since the free clinic began on Aug. 10.

Dabu said patiently waited for her turn, even when the line was so long that many others decided to leave.

It was determined, however, that her tooth could not be pulled out as she is pregnant and an extraction might negatively affect her baby.

Instead, the female dentist just cleaned out her affected tooth.

"It's still free and I'm thankful," Dabu said.

Like her, other patients on the priority list are those with no medical or dental insurance.

Miriam Reyes said she spent two days lining up and was able to get free medicines on top of the free services for her eye problem. She would also be

DROWNING

From Page 1

day that one of the responding police officers, Elias Saralu, spotted the victim, Gi Cheol Han, fully submerged on the bed of the sea floor.

Tarkong said the 51-year-old Han was stuck between two rocks or a crack that stretched from the reef onto the sea floor.

Tarkong said it was Boating Safety Officer Emery Kaipat who dove into the water and retrieved the victim's body.

Han was pulled into the rescue boat and CPR was administered for several minutes, but he never regained consciousness.

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JAPANESE

From Page 1

tims of war.

The newspaper reports that UC Berkeley admitted that the skulls and bones removed from Saipan in 1945 by a Navy doctor are housed in storage shelves maintained by the Phoebe A. Hearst Museum of Anthropology on its campus.

The admission, according to the report, has sparked the fury of international law experts and anthropologists, who say the university has a legal and ethical duty to return the remains to Japan.

Both the U.S. and Japanese governments have been making expeditions to World War II battlefields, including Saipan and other Pacific islands, to recover remains of their war dead.

To this day, Japanese groups also regularly come to Saipan to pay respect to their war dead and pray for world peace.

AS SCHOOL YEAR 2008-2009 ENDED:

Over 300 public high school students short of credits

'New initiatives' eyed for PSS

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan will recommend to the Board of Education new initiatives that she believes will bring progress and help stabilize the Commonwealth's Public School System.

Describing these efforts as fresh and never been tested before, Sablan said the concepts cover all aspects of the system's operations and expectations.

Sablan disclosed this to *Saipan Tribune* last week without elaborating on the details. She said the initiatives will be presented to the board first at its next meeting.

"There will be several initiatives to be presented to the board...and these will help us achieve our expectations and goals for our children," she said.

At present, more than half of PSS teaching personnel, or 68 percent, are classified as highly qualified. Student records based on SBA and SAT-10 tests indicate high performance rates compared to some states and neighboring schools.

PSS made these happen despite the school system receiving limited funding from the local government for several years now due to declining revenues and resources.

For the current fiscal year alone, PSS was given just \$35 million for personnel and operation for nearly



11,000 students and 20 school campuses.

To survive and live within its means, public schools were forced to reduce their expenses for utility consumption, supplies, and travels.

Sablan said the initiatives for SY 2009-2010 are efforts shared by all school administrators and her management team.

"We will take comments and feedbacks from all our stakeholders...to make the [initiatives] happen for PSS," the commissioner said.

Regular classes will open in 20 public schools on Sept. 8.

Sablan already expects some challenges.

"Each school year, we have different challenges. However, we're looking forward to a better school year 2009-2010," she said.

She revealed that through the funding assistance from the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act and other federal granting agencies, PSS will now be able to build new classrooms, hire qualified personnel, fill important positions, and procure equipment for better student learning.

It was earlier disclosed that 111 positions will be restored by PSS as a result of the ARRA funds.

The decades-old problems of dilapidated and unsafe classrooms will also be addressed as portions of the stimulus money will allow for repair and major rehabilitation of school buildings.

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Over 300 high school students in public schools on Saipan have been found to be short of credits during the last school year, requiring them to enroll in summer classes so they could move to the next level.

These students were enrolled in summer classes offered at Kagman High School and Saipan Southern High School, which both concluded sessions last week.

Saipan Tribune learned that both schools offered full academic sessions for content areas like English, math, science, and social studies.

Acting Saipan Southern High

principal Craig Garrison said a little over 200 students were accommodated in the school's summer program—all lacking credits to start as regular students next school year.

The Board of Education has set a 28-credit requirement for a student to graduate high school.

Garrison said a large portion of Saipan Southern High's summer enrollees came from Marianas High School, which did not offer some sessions due to lack of funding.

Garrison said no advanced classes are offered during summer programs.

"All sessions are intended for high school students who are short of credits so they can graduate on time. By taking

these missing units in summer, they can start the school year as regular students," he explained.

The acting principal said the SSHS summer program was a six-week class covering all content areas.

At Kagman High School, records show that over 100 enrollees were accommodated during the five-week summer classes.

Unlike SSHS that offered six sessions, KHS conducted only two sessions for each content area.

A school staffer yesterday said the school also accommodated a significant number of students from MHS this year.

Every student who enrolls in the summer classes, the staffer

said, has only one goal to fulfill: to make up for a loss in credits so he or she can graduate.

Both SSHS and KHS offer summer programs annually, with enrollment varying every year.

As to why they offer the program, Garrison said: "Summer programs are conducted for our students to be retained."

Based on PSS Facts & Figures for SY 2008-2009, the three public high schools on Saipan closed last school year with 2,732 students: MHS, 1220; KHS, 784; and SSHS, 728.

In an early report to the Board of Education, it was disclosed that a total of 575 high school students graduated from PSS last school year.

DISCONNECTION NOTICE

IT&E would like to remind its customers that payments not received by close of business on August 20th, will result in temporary suspension of all telephone services after 6:00 p.m. on that day. To prevent temporary suspension, customers must pay their bills on or before August 20th.

THIS WILL BE THE ONLY NOTIFICATION IT&E CUSTOMERS WILL RECEIVE*.

* You have the right to dispute this notice. You must state your claim in person or in writing no later than August 20th. You must pay any amount not in dispute to avoid disconnection. Payment denotes acceptance of all charges.

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DESPITE CRIMINAL CASE

Cruz OK'd to pursue basketball scholarship abroad

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Former CNMI National mainstay Jericho Xavier Setubal Cruz has been allowed to pursue his studies in the Philippines where he had obtained a basketball scholarship, but his criminal case remains pending in the Superior Court.

According to court documents, the Office of the Attorney General and Cruz, through his lawyer Bruce Berline, signed an agreement on July 15, 2009, to allow Cruz to continue his studies in the Philippines.

That same day, Superior Court Associate Judge Ramona V. Manglona approved the agreement and ordered the immediate

return of Cruz's passport.

During the July 29, 2009, status conference hearing, Berline appeared on behalf of Cruz, who was already in the Philippines. Manglona continued the status conference to Sept. 23, 2009 at 1:30pm.

In her written order issued Aug. 4 on the status conference, Manglona said Cruz's appearance in court that day is waived, but she ordered the defendant to appear at the next hearing.

If Cruz fails to appear at the Sept. 23 status conference, a bench warrant will be issued for his arrest.

According to the agreement, the 18-year-old Cruz has been awarded a basketball scholarship at the University of Saint

Augustine in Iloilo City, the Philippines. Cruz will study and play basketball for the college starting October 2009.

Cruz, through his lawyer, and the OAG agreed to ask the court to return his passport so he may travel to the Philippines.

"This stipulation is made in good faith and based upon the fact that Cruz waives his right to appear at future status conferences and has a round-trip ticket in order to return to Saipan for his trial if one is indeed necessary to resolve this matter," the document states.

Cruz's parents live on Saipan.

Berline and assistant attorney general Matthew Meyer agreed that, in addition to Cruz's round-trip ticket, his substantial contacts with Saipan "will ensure that he will return to Saipan for the resolution of this matter, whether it be by trial or some other alternative disposition."

Cruz was arrested in May 2009 for allegedly opening the locker of a customer at Hyatt Regency Saipan's Club Elan and stealing \$60 cash. He posted bail.

The OAG charged Cruz with one count of misdemeanor burglary and one count of misdemeanor theft. He pleaded not guilty.



NMC

REGISTRATION WEEK

Students register for the Fall 2009 semester at the Northern Marianas College during the first day of Registration Week. Registration will be ongoing from 9am to 6 pm until Friday, Aug. 21.

Deadline set for renewing foreign investors' permits

All foreign investors who hold long-term business certificates in the Commonwealth may apply for a renewal by submitting an application at least 90 days prior to the expiration of their long-term business entry permit, according to the Department of Commerce.

In a notice issued yesterday,

CONTACT INFO

Foreign Investment Office
Tel: 664-3018
E-mail: commercedep@pticom.com

Commerce said all foreign investors and their designated agents in the Commonwealth who hold existing long-term permits that are expiring any time after Aug. 21, 2009, may submit their renewal applications prior to the close of business on Friday, Aug. 21, 2009, with all of the required documents.

Current long-term permit holders are encouraged to submit their renewal applications prior to the established deadline. Incomplete applications will not be accepted.

Foreign investors that fall under the \$50,000 investment threshold requirement will be given until Oct. 15, 2009, to submit their renewal applications.

All new applicants must submit their applications at least 10 calendar days prior to the expiration of their entry permit. Applications submitted within less than 10 days from the expiration of the entry permit shall be denied.

For more information, contact the Foreign Investment Office at 664-3018 or email at commercedep@pticom.com. (PR-DOC)

Commonwealth Zoning Board

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Date : August 19, 2009, Wednesday
Time : 6:00pm
Place : Kagman Community Social Hall

The Zoning Board will hold a public hearing for concerns and issues which members of the Kagman community may have. Everyone is encouraged to attend. Comments may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may also be submitted in writing to the Zoning Office no later than 4:30 pm, August 20, 2009, or they may be submitted via e-mail to staff@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or delivered to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, DanDan, Saipan.

For more information, please contact Victor Barrett, Zoning Administrator, at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & Division 3 of Title 10 CMC).

/s/ Henry S. Hofsneider, Chairman.

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**
INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB09-OHS-072

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: AUGUST 27, 2009 TIME: 10:00 A.M.
**"LEASE OF A WAREHOUSE SPACE TO BE
USE AS A CBRNE FACILITY ON SAIPAN FOR THE
OFFICE OF THE HOMELAND SECURITY"**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

LOCAL BIDDERS PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE TO LOCAL BIDDERS BECAUSE THE FEDERAL GRANTOR AGENCY, THE U.S. OFFICE OF HOMELAND SECURITY, HAS CERTIFIED THAT SUCH PREFERENCE IS IN CONFLICT WITH THE AGENCY'S GRANT CONDITIONS.

THE LESSOR MUST COMPLY WITH CNMI PUBLIC LAW 15-23, ARTICLE 5, SECTION 8652 (A) - (D).

/S/ PATRICK J. TENORIO /S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR HOMELAND SECURITY DIRECTOR, P&S



Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc. (NMPASI)

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy Systems, Inc. (NMPASI) is soliciting proposals for the financial and compliance audit for fiscal year ending September 30, 2009. NMPASI is the designated, federally funded protection and advocacy system for persons with disabilities in the CNMI. NMPASI uses a variety of individual and systems advocacy approaches to protect people's rights, including legal and administrative remedies, legislative, policy change and trainings. Proposals for the financial and compliance audit shall be submitted to NMPASI, P.O. Box 503529, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than September 4, 2009. The audit shall be performed in compliance with the following guidelines:

1. Generally Accepted Auditing Standards;
2. OMB Circular A-133; and
3. Compliance with the General Requirements Applicable to Federal Financial Assistance Program

Award will be based on specific factors such as prior experience, technical competence, ability to meet the deadline and price in this order. The contract for this audit will be awarded no later than October 1, 2009. The audit work shall commence by December 1, 2009, and a final audit report shall be completed by February 28, 2010. A list of specific audit requirements and Agency's profile are available at NMPASI office, Gualo Rai. Any questions regarding this matter can be addressed to Mr. James Rayphand, Executive Director at Tel. No 235-7274/7273.

 **COMMUNITY BRIEFS**
**Welcome tribute
for arriving
soldiers today**

The Veterans of Foreign Wars, Saipan Post 3457 will lead a welcoming tribute for the CNMI Army Reserve, Echo Company, 100th battalion 442nd infantry as they return to Saipan today, Aug. 18.

The time of arrival of the unit's chartered plane is not yet known, but the VFW is encouraging the community to join them and welcome these heroes as they pass by Airport Road to their respective homes. The community is urged to line the Airport Road with yellow ribbons and banners and wave to the soldiers. This is their second deployment to Iraq. (*VFW*)

**New quake shakes
Japan region**

An earthquake was recorded at the Emergency Management Office, Saipan and National Earthquake Information Center at 10:05am yesterday, Aug. 17, 2009.

The epicenter of the quake was initially determined to be in the vicinity of the southwestern Ryukyu Islands, Japan region at 23.597 degrees N and 123.549 degrees E or about 1,403.05 miles northwest of Saipan, with a preliminary magnitude of 6.8 on the Richter scale.

Based on all available data, a destructive Pacific-wide tsunami was not expected and there is no tsunami threat to the Marianas. (*EMO*)

**MHS Class of '79
reunion meeting**

Attention all MHS Class of 1979 graduates: The final MHS Class of 1979 reunion meeting will be held this Friday, Aug. 21, 2009, at Irene Takai Camacho's Dandan house at 6pm. Final details for the 30th year class reunion will be discussed and decided. Dips and chips and BYOB. Call Irene at 288-2596 between 8am to 3pm for details. (*PR*)

FAA approves \$3.9M for two CPA projects

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneeth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Federal Aviation Administration approved Friday the funding requirements for two key projects at the Saipan International Airport totaling \$3.9 million.

Efrain F. Camacho, Commonwealth Ports Authority executive director, disclosed yesterday the federal agency will grant the ports authority \$2.1 million to procure a new public address system and \$1.8 million for a third backup generator.

Camacho is expecting the signed documents from FAA this week so they can imme-

dately proceed with the projects' designs.

Due to successive and numerous power interruptions at the airport last year, hundreds of passengers were stranded and affected.

At that time, CPA had no available backup generators for its power system as both units were down and needed major repairs.

FAA recognized the urgency and criticalness of the two projects to the welfare of people and the islands' tourism industry.

One main backup generator and two units of 750-kilowatt each will be added to the existing two engines. The two 750-KW units are for the airport's

control tower and the Armed Rescue Firefighting facility.

"With this new grant, CPA will have an excellent backup for its power system and will not be affected by any unscheduled power interruptions," Camacho told Saipan Tribune yesterday.

Besides the public address

system, CPA will also solicit bids for the construction design of the airport's public restrooms and terminal facilities.

He said design work for the project is hoped to be finished by the end of the year while a new public address system is expected to be available by February 2010.

Camacho said the airport's public address system has been a major concern in the last 17 years. It is only now that major improvements will be made to the equipment, which will include a device that will send a signal or alert to hearing-impaired passengers and guests at the airport.

Continental set to join Star Alliance

HOUSTON—Continental Airlines has announced that it plans to join Star Alliance on Oct. 27, 2009. As previously announced, Continental will end its participation in SkyTeam after its last scheduled flight on Oct. 24, 2009.

Continental's transition from SkyTeam to Star Alliance is a strategic change, originally announced in June 2008, that will enhance travel options and competition. Continental's network will have

a distinct fit in Star Alliance, with Continental's New York hub at Newark Liberty International Airport playing a particularly important role for Star Alliance travelers.

Continental's OnePass members do not need to make any changes to their OnePass accounts and will continue to utilize their mileage as normal. Mileage balances will not be affected by the transition.

Through Oct. 24, 2009,

OnePass members can continue to earn and redeem miles and make reward reservations on SkyTeam partners.

When the transition to Star Alliance occurs on Oct. 27, 2009, OnePass members will begin earning base miles and Elite Qualification Miles/Points and be able to redeem miles on Star Alliance airlines.

Continental provides alliance updates on its web site at: continental.com/allianceinfo. (*PR*)

Council honors Dr. Inos

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Saipan Municipal Council honored the late Dr. Rita Hocog Inos in a commemorative resolution that traced her remarkable accomplishments, particularly in the CNMI's educational system.

The resolution, signed on Aug. 14 by council chair Antonia M. Tudela, vice chair Ramon B. Camacho and councilman Felipe Q. Atalig, was handed over to Inos' children, spouse and family on Aug. 15 at the Mt. Carmel Church, where her remains were brought for public viewing.

Hundreds of people joined Inos' bereaved family at the church, including Gov. Benigno R. Filial and her former colleagues at the Public School System, where she served as education commissioner.

The municipal council has yet to adopt the resolu-

tion through ratification at its next session because it was an emergency resolution.

Among the publications credited to Inos include the Chamorro Grammar Workbook for Grades 4-8, the PSS Bilingual Program, Chamorro Elementary Grades Reading Books and other educational research works.

She was a member of the second CNMI constitutional convention.

She also was a deputy director for the Pacific Resources for Education and Learning, and principal at the Rota Elementary School.

She received her bachelor's degree at the University of Hawaii-Manoa in 1979, a master's degree at the San Jose State University in 1983 and a doctor of education at the University of Southern California in 1994.

Inos, 55, passed away of cancer on Aug. 10 at the Commonwealth Health Center.

2ND NOTICE

Jose R. Ramos 153441

Reynaldo Ayson 120789

Please report to your Employer Immediately
failure to report result in your Termination.

Misamis Construction (Saipan), Ltd.

Commonwealth Zoning Board

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to advise the public that the Zoning Office will be closed on August 21, 2009, Friday beginning at 2:00pm for a scheduled Public Auditor's Ethics workshop. Please call the Zoning Office at 234-9661 for further information. Thank you for your understanding.

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION, PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

P.O. BOX 501370 CK, SAIPAN, MP 96950

HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE



JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

OPEN COMPETITIVE EXAMINATION ANNOUNCEMENT

It is the policy of the Board of Education, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands, that the Public School System's Human Resources shall be applied and administered according to the principles of equal employment opportunity as defined by the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Public Law 6 - 10, regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, handicap or place of origin. Applicants for this position must be a U.S. Citizen or be eligible and authorized to work in the U.S., including the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands.

Announcement No: **PSS-2009-056** Application & Employment Type: **Non-Certified**

Position Title: **SCHOOL PRINCIPAL I-III**

Pay Level/Step: **UNGRADED** Per Annum Salary: **\$50,000.00-\$60,000.00**

Opening Date: **August 3, 2009** Closing Date: **August 21, 2009**

Location: **PSS - SAIPAN / TINIAN / ROTA**

Benefits: Salary Commensurate with qualifications and experience, plus excellent benefits (including Life Insurance, Retirement Benefits, and Paid Leave/Holidays)

Minimum Requirements:

Principal I

- (a) Master's degree with a major in educational administration or related field.
- (b) Must possess a valid administration certification; and
- (c) At least six (6) years of experience; three (3) years of full time appropriate teaching experience and the other three (3) years of experience must be in school administration or a related leadership management field.
- Must take and pass PRAXIS I & the appropriate PRAXIS II exam starting July 31, 2007.

Principal II

- (a) Master's degree with a major in educational administration or related field.
- (b) Must possess a valid administration certification; and
- (c) At least seven (7) years of service; three (3) years of full time appropriate teaching experience and the other four (4) years of experience must be in school administration or a related leadership management field.
- Must take and pass PRAXIS I & the appropriate PRAXIS II exam starting July 31, 2007.

Principal III

- (a) Master's degree with a major in educational administration or related field.
- (b) Must possess a valid administration certification; and
- (c) At least nine (9) years of experience; three (3) years of full time appropriate teaching experience and six (6) years of work experience in school administration or a related leadership field.
- Must take and pass PRAXIS I & the appropriate PRAXIS II exam starting July 31, 2007.

*Detailed job description with qualification requirements can be obtained at PSS Human Resources Office at the 3rd Retirement Building, Capitol Hill, or download it online www.pss.cnmi.mp/humanresources

INTERESTED APPLICANTS MAY OBTAIN A DETAILED JOB DESCRIPTION WITH QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS AND APPLICATION FORMS AT THE PSS HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE AT THE 3rd FLOOR RETIREMENT BUILDING, CAPITOL HILL. REQUIRED DOCUMENTS MUST BE ATTACHED TO COMPLETE APPLICATION FORMS: (1) COPY OF DIPLOMA/DEGREE, (2) TRANSCRIPTS, (3) POLICE CLEARANCE (FROM PLACE OF RESIDENCE FOR PAST SIX MONTHS), (4) VERIFICATION OF EMPLOYMENT LETTER, (5) RESUME, AND (6) TEACHING CERTIFICATE (IF APPLICABLE). COMPLETED APPLICATIONS AND REQUIRED DOCUMENTS MAY BE SUBMITTED TO THE HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE OR MAILED TO: CNMI PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM, ATTN: HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE, RETIREMENT BUILDING; THIRD FLOOR, P.O. BOX 501370 CK, SAIPAN, MP 96950, and TEL. #. (670) 237-3051, FAX # (670) 664-3707. ALSO VISIT <http://www.pss.cnmi.mp/humanresources> ON THE WORLDWIDE WEB.

Guam to get \$2.8M CDBR grant

Acting Gov. Michael W. Cruz said yesterday that Guam will receive \$2,851,151 from the Community Development Block Recovery Grant. The awarded funds are part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and will be used for the construction of the new Southern Police Precinct, the Agat/Santa Rita Fire Station, and the new Guma' San Jose Emergency Shelter for families.

"These funds signify our government's continued effort to seek

grants that will improve the quality of life for our community and prepare for our island's growing population," said Cruz. "By investing in our Guam police and fire departments as well as our Guma' San Jose Emergency Shelter, we are investing in the safety and security of our people."

The Guam Housing and Urban Renewal Authority is Guam's lead agency for community planning development programs. GHURA has been

working with the Office of the Governor to secure ARRA funding for the construction, retrofitting, and renovating of Guam's housing needs and facilities.

"GHURA is very pleased with receiving these funds," said Benny Pinaula, GHURA executive director. "We feel it will help Guam especially in light of the military buildup; in addition to that, GHURA continues to actively pursue additional ARRA funds that are

available for the island."

The intent of these funds is to stabilize neighborhoods and create jobs by applying ARRA funds in a timely manner to fund "shovel-ready" projects. The funds also allow emergency and public safety responders a facility to better serve the Southern communities of Guam. The Guma' San Jose Emergency Shelter is the island's first designated facility intended to serve families exclusively. (PR)

Animal lovers to meet for 5th Pacific workshop

The World Society for the Protection of Animals will be hosting its fifth Pacific Animal Welfare Workshop in Tumon, Guam, on AUG. 20 - 21.

The two-day workshop aims to bring together animal protection groups in the region to

share skills, experiences and tactics. The agenda will include volunteer management, companion animal issues and policy development.

Delegates will come from Palau, Yap, Guam and Saipan, where similar challenges in

creating positive change for animals are faced.

WSPA member society manager Rachel Smith said: "The Pacific workshops have been welcomed by our member societies as an opportunity to learn from one another and recognise the progress being made, which is critical due to the isolation of the region."

The workshop will close with GAIN's 20th anniversary function—a milestone all participants are delighted to celebrate. (PR)

FSA sets deadline to sign up for non-insured disaster assistance

MAITE, GUAM—Tom Camacho, county executive director, reminds producers the deadline is Sept. 1, 2009 for the Non-Insured Disaster Assistance Program coverage on 2010 Value-Loss Crops (Ornamental Nursery, Aquaculture, Turfgrass, Floriculture, etc.).

The NAP program is designed to cover losses due to damaging named tropical storms and typhoons. The program covers loss of value in excess of 50 percent of the total value. The administrative fee per policy is \$250 per crop, per producer with a \$750 cap per county. NAP coverage does not begin until 30 days after your application is filed and the administrative fee has been paid. The administrative fee is non refundable.

"Producers interested in obtaining NAP on their 2010 non-insurable crop acreage, should contact their local USDA Service Center before September 1st to complete

an application," said Camacho. "Producers who currently have NAP coverage or who are interested in coverage need to keep accurate records of their inventory and provide monthly inventories to the Farm Service Agency annually, and promptly notify FSA when ever losses occur" said Camacho.

This deadline date also applies to producers who have a 2009 policy that expires on September 30th and want to renew their coverage for the same value-loss crops in 2010.

Producers are encouraged to contact their local FSA office to obtain NAP coverage or for additional information on the Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program before the September 1, 2009 deadline.

For more information about disaster programs implemented by FSA, visit www.fsa.usda.gov. (PR)



WEDDED BLISS

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy 2nd wedding anniversary to Kevin and Jocelyn Kapileo, with wishes for many more to come! Greetings come from Veralynn Basa.

PACIFIC BRIEFS

American Samoa to get \$7 million for energy

PAGO PAGO, American Samoa (The Samoa News/PIR)—American Samoa will soon receive more than \$7 million from the U.S. Energy Department to support energy efficiency and renewable energy projects under provisions of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. This is 40 percent of the \$18.5 million the Energy Department announced earlier this year that American Samoa is allocated under the State Energy Program. During his confirmation hearing in the Senate this week, Territorial Energy Office Acting Director Mauigoa Reupena Tagaloa said his office will be receiving soon the first 40 percent of the SEP funding under the stimulus act.

Guam gov's Communication dep't launches website

The Office of the Governor of Guam launched its Communications department's official website yesterday. The site, www.communications.guam.gov, is designed for users to view photos of various events and activities attended by Gov. Felix P. Camacho and Lt. Gov. Michael W. Cruz, M.D. The photos can be downloaded from the website's archive free of charge. From weddings to proclamation signings, important

press events, and courtesy visits, this site allows the community of Guam and people across the globe the ability to get to know the island's leaders and keep up to date on the latest events in Guam. This website captures the images of the countless milestones of the Camacho-Cruz Administration as well as documents the many successes of Guam's community. (PR)

Fiji to recruit judges from Sri Lanka

SUVA, Fiji (Fijilive/PIR)—Fiji's Chief Justice Anthony Gates is currently recruiting judges from Colombo in Sri Lanka. Attorney General Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum confirmed this to FijiLive saying Fiji is looking at sourcing qualified judges from Commonwealth member countries. In an interview with a Sri Lankan paper, Sunday Times, Justice Gates said the government planned sweeping judicial changes in April next year and since Fiji and Sri Lanka were countries that inherited similar judicial systems, he wished to recruit judicial officers from Sri Lanka.

New Zealand search vessel arrives in Tonga

NUKUALOFA, Tonga (Matangi Tonga/PIR)—A NEW Zealand navy vessel the

HMNZ Manawanui arrived in Tonga at the weekend with a support team to assist in the reconnaissance of the sunken ferry MV Princess Ashika in the Ha'apai Group. Tonga's Police Commander Chris Kelley said on August 14, that he hoped the Manawanui could commence operations on Monday 17 August 2009. "The HMNZ Manawanui will try to establish formal identification of the vessel by reading the name plate and they will also support the Royal Commission of Inquiry." HMNZ Manawanui arrived in Tonga at the weekend.

Samoans outraged at cost of road switch

APIA, Samoa (Samoa Observer/PIR)—The cost of the road switch has climbed to nearly 100 million tala [US\$39 million]. Add the 53 million tala the Government tried to hide from view in the budget to the 46 million allocated to the Land Transport Authority, you get that amount, Tautua Samoa Party believes. The party also accused the government of putting its own safety before that of the public by insisting that all state-owned vehicles must become RHD. Prime Minister Tuilaepa Sa'ilele Malielegaoi put the cost of the switch at \$4 million, Chairman of Tautua, Lealailepule Rimoni Aiafi, said yesterday.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Aug 18, 1999

Fund assets up \$62M in 8 months

The Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund registered a profit of \$62 million during the first eight months of FY 1999 from its overseas investments, or a 22 percent increase compared to the same period of the previous fiscal year. Considered the highest earnings in recent years, this brings to \$344.5 million the total investment portfolio of NMIRF as of June 30, 1999, according to acting Director Fred Camacho. For the month of June alone, NMIRF posted a \$14.2 million in earnings. 1999

Report: Stayman's involved in on-job politics too

Investigators for the House Resources Committee have dug up more evidence that strongly indicate that former Office of Insular Affairs Director Allen Stayman has engaged in illegal political activities to pursue Washington's federal takeover of the Northern Marianas, according to a news report. The US-based Roll Call newspaper reported in its Monday issue that Stayman had written a memo to Matt Angle, former executive director of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, suggesting that Democrats "repudiate" Froilan C. Tenorio, who was then governor of the CNMI. Tenorio, who was the island's chief executive when Stayman sent a memo in 1997, had successfully thwarted the Clinton's administration's attempt to strip the local government of control over labor and immigration policies.

Aug 18, 2000

Hike car registration fee

An increase in vehicle registration fee by as much as double than the current rate is likely to occur if a legislative proposal draws support from the Senate and the governor. The House of Representatives cleared yesterday HB 12-54 updating CNMI's vehicle registration laws, which includes provisions setting out higher fees for the annual requirement. Under the measure offered by House Floor Leader Oscar M. Babauta, owners of cars, jeeps, vans and pickup trucks will have to pay \$40 to renew their registration—up by 60 percent from the present \$25 fee.

Sexual harassment victim files civil suit vs NMC

A former music student at the Northern Marianas College has filed a civil suit before the Superior Court against the island's lone higher learning institution, seeking \$30,000 in total damages after she was sexually harassed and molested by her teacher four years ago. Meredith Oden enrolled in piano, voice and guitar lessons under the tutelage of the College's music instructor Bruno Dalla Pozza. Instead, she was allegedly subjected to a pattern of sexual harassment and molestation. Ms. Oden has been awarded \$375,000 in damages by a 12-man jury in U.S. District Court after it found Mr. Dalla Pozza guilty of sexual harassment. The case is now under appeal at the Ninth Circuit Court.

Aug 18, 2002

Umeyama's case reaches Japan

Rudy Baylon, a jetski operator on Saipan, said yesterday he was surprised to read the news on yesterday's local papers. He said he initially could not believe that Alfred Cruz Aldan, a Marianas Visitors Authority marketing specialist, was being linked to the death of a woman believed to be Chiharu Umeyama, a Japanese tour coordinator reported missing for several weeks now. What is more alarming, he said, was that her girlfriend from Yamaguchi, Japan is already aware of Umeyama's disappearance and the possibility that hers was the body found in Kagman III last Monday. "She was calling me from Japan and was monitoring the developments on the case of the missing Japanese. She was saying, 'What's happening to Saipan?'" Baylon said. "Even if you go to other marine sports stalls, that's the talk of the town. They couldn't believe the suspect is from MVA."

Suicide Cliff: A living reminder of war's horror

The blue shade of the sky gradually becomes stronger as it meets the dark blue hue of seemingly unending seas when viewed from atop the Suicide Cliff. At 800 feet above sea level, the site provides one with a scenic view of the cliff and birds flying in mid-air by peeking by the fence line—and the greenery of the land below. Isolated by a zigzag road from Marpi, the Suicide Cliff offers not just the beautiful site but the tranquility away from the busy downtown. White-painted benches were also built at the site so visitors could relax under the shade of the trees and the windy atmosphere.

Hawaii plans quiet, sobering 50th anniversary

ON THE NET

- 50th Anniversary of Statehood: <http://hawaii.gov/statehood/>
- Hawaii Statehood Conference: <http://hawaiistatehoodconference.com/>

By MARK NIESSE
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

HONOLULU (AP)—Hawaii turns 50 years old as the 50th state Friday, but there will be no grand parades, no dazzling fireworks, no lavish displays of native culture.

Organizers of the observation are not even willing to call it a party. It is simply a “commemoration,” one that is sensitive to a painful history of the Hawaiian monarchy’s overthrow and unresolved claims of Native Hawaiians.

The main event is a low-key day-long conference reflecting on Hawaii’s place in the world. Behind the tourist-friendly tropical images of beaches and sunshine, many remain uncomfortable with the U.S. takeover of the islands and the idea that businesses have exploited Hawaiians’ culture.

“Instead of state government having huge parties and fireworks, we’re having a convention,” said Manu Boyd, cultural director for the Royal Hawaiian Center, a shopping and entertainment area in Waikiki. “That shows the strength and spiritual power of the Hawaiian people, whose shattered world has not yet been addressed.”

When statehood came calling in 1959, it ushered in an era of economic prosperity through tourism and the side effects that came with it: resort high rises, more than 500,000 monthly tourists and an emphasis on hokey luau rather than the authentic host culture.

Sovereignty groups advocating independence from the United States make up a minority, but many residents recognize the long-standing issues associated with the 1893 overthrow of the monarchy, the islands’ annexation and past harms to the Native Hawaiian people.

Dodie Brown was a smiling 6-year-old when her father took a picture of her holding a newspaper proclaiming “Statehood!”—an image that traveled around the world.

“It’s good that the commemoration is quiet,” said Brown, who now works for the city of Honolulu. “Something like this should be done with taste and finesse, in respect to everyone’s feelings.”

Besides the statehood conference, the Hawaii Statehood Commission has been airing TV and radio ads with “50 Voices of Statehood” interviews, inviting schools to place commemorative items in time capsules, displaying artwork on the meaning of statehood in the Hawaii Convention Center and

showing exhibits in state airports. State lawmakers allocated \$600,000 for statehood events.

“Out of respect, we decided not to do the parade and the big party,” said Kippen de Alba Chu, chairman of the Statehood Commission. Those kinds of events “would have been a waste of state funds, especially given the economy.”

Alaska, by contrast, which joined the union in January, 1959, embraced the 50th anniversary of statehood with concerts, fireworks displays, a prize-winning float in California’s Rose Parade and observances throughout the state during the past 12 months. Among the festivities celebrated in a downtown Anchorage festival was the re-enactment of placing the 49th star on the American flag.

Here, even the low-key conference is drawing complaints. Hawaiian sovereignty groups are planning protests outside the convention center Friday, and some say the conference’s topics are too



In this Aug. 21, 1959 file photo, President Dwight Eisenhower helps unfurl the new 50-star U.S. flag in Washington on Aug. 21, 1959, after he signed a proclamation making Hawaii the 50th state of the union.

focused on tourism, economic development and business opportunities.

One panelist, University of Hawaii Center for Hawaiian Studies professor Jonathan Osorio, said the conference should focus more on Hawaiian culture and history.

“It’s a political cop-out because the state doesn’t really want to address the legal or political nature of its claim to authority in Hawaii,” Osorio said. “It’s one of the reasons they have really muted its commemoration.”

Nearly 18 years after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor pulled the United States into World War II, Hawaii was admitted into the United States on Aug. 21, 1959.

About 94 percent of island chain’s voters supported statehood. Opponents argue that the vote was tainted because



In this March 13, 1959 file photo, A group of supporters of statehood drive through the street in Waikiki, Honolulu, Hawaii. Fifty years after Hawaii became the 50th state, the islands’ anniversary remains such a touchy topic that organizers are calling it a “commemoration” instead of a “celebration.”

the only choice on the ballot was to become a state or remain a territory—independence was not an option.

The Hawaiian kingdom was overthrown in 1893 when a group of white businessmen forced Queen Liliuokalani to abdicate while U.S. Marines came ashore. Hawaii was considered a republic until it became a U.S. territory by a resolution approved by Congress in 1898.

“This newfangled idea of celebrating statehood shows that people don’t understand Hawaii’s history, or if they do understand, then they’re celebrating a lie, a theft, that essentially stole a people’s right of self-determination,” said Poka Laenui, a Hawaiian and attorney who has worked for independence for more than 30 years.

Along with statehood came striking changes to the islands, as the first commercial jetliner’s arrival in

Honolulu just a few weeks earlier began the dawn of the tourism era. Today, Hawaii’s economy depends on tourism as its primary industry, with nearly 7 million visiting the islands in 2008.

Hawaii’s image as a beach paradise captured the imagination of the rest of the world, aided by sometimes irreverent marketing of hula girls, leis or tiki torch-lit hotels.

In recent years, the tourism industry has made strides in ensuring the Hawaiian culture is respected rather than exploited, said Kelii Wilson, Hawaiian cultural coordinator for the Hawaii Tourism Authority.



Dodie Brown, 56, a resident of Honolulu holds a picture taken by her father George Bacon when she was 6-years-old Saturday August 15, 2009. Brown is holding a copy of the March 12, 1959 special Hawaii statehood edition of the Honolulu Star-Bulletin. Brown said she remembers her mother dressing her in a Hawaiian muumuu and brushing her hair before her father took the picture in the family’s front yard.



In this June 30, 1959 file photo, Quantas Airlines “City of Sydney” arrives in Honolulu after its inaugural flight to the Hawaiian islands. Tourism was already growing in the 1950s as propeller planes entered use alongside ocean liners. But growth exploded with the introduction of commercial jet planes in 1959. The number of tourists arriving in the islands exploded from 171,000 in 1958 to 2.6 million in 1973. Hawaii’s economy grew an average of 7 percent per year during the 15 first years of statehood.

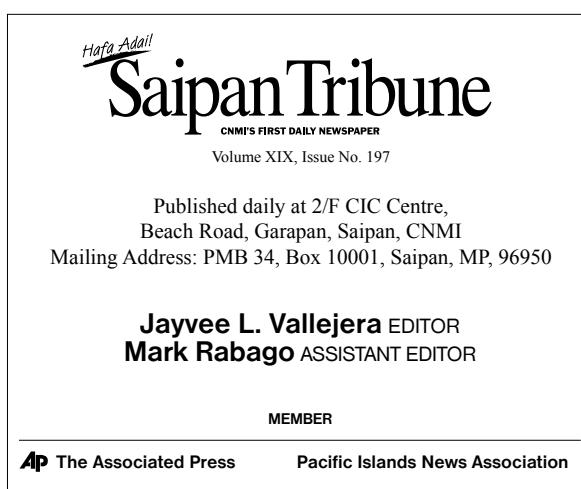
For example, businesses should ensure that Tahitian dancers aren’t called Hawaiian hula dancers, and that Hawaiian words are pronounced and spelled correctly, Wilson said.

“Growing up as a child here in Hawaii, I did see misrepresentations of the culture,” she said. “Now we’re getting closer to the right place.”

One way Hawaiians are moving toward having a voice in their self-determination is through legislation pending in Congress that would treat them similarly to Native American tribes and Alaskan natives.

After a decade of efforts, the measure could pass into law as soon as this year with the support of Hawaii-born President Barack Obama.

Opinion



EDITORIAL

Pedalmania in DC

Every time I see an adult on a bicycle, I no longer despair for the future of the human race." So said H.G. Wells, nearly a century ago.

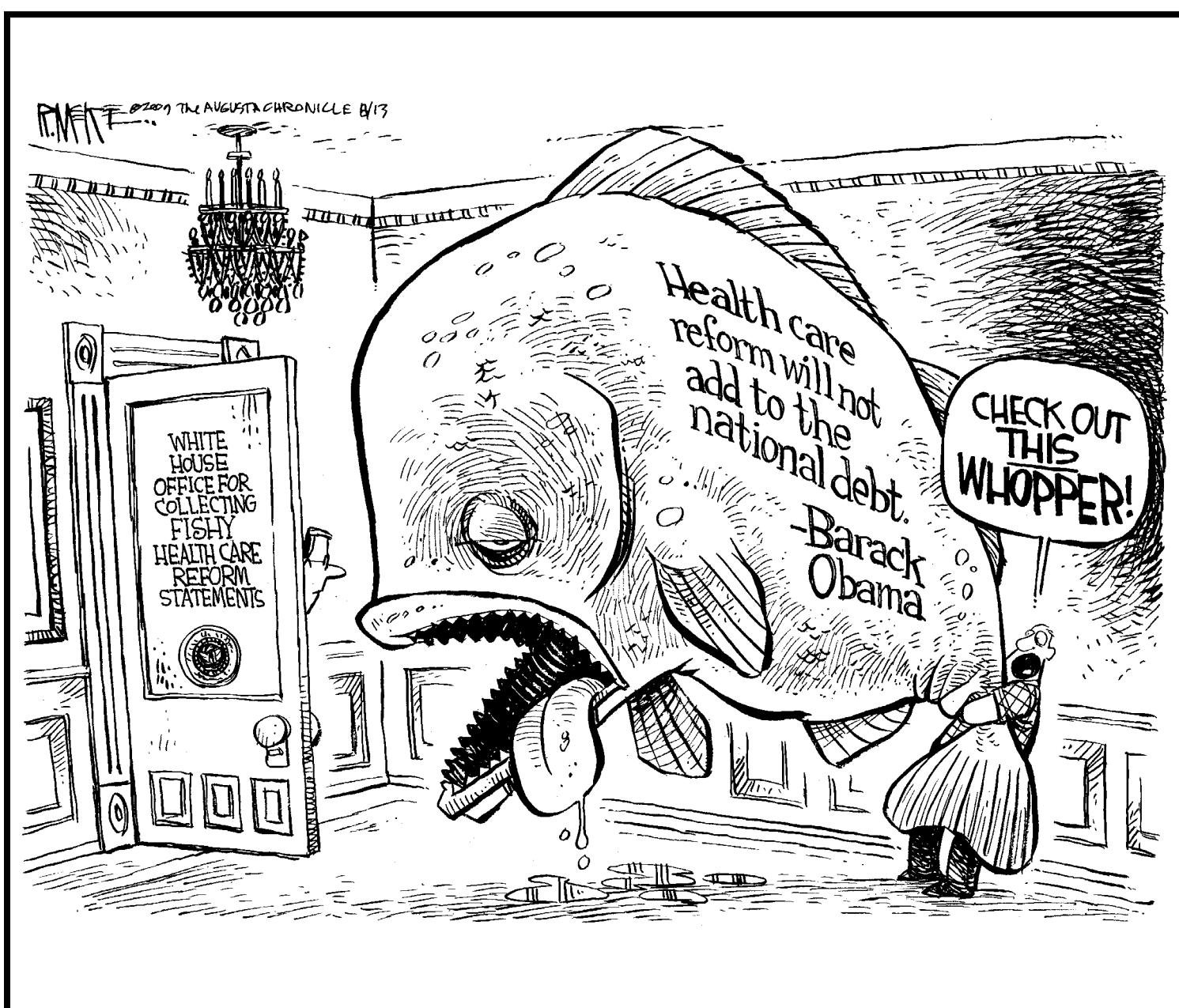
Wells would be heartened if he could visit the District of Columbia today. The presence of bicyclists in the metropolitan area has been growing steadily, especially in recent years. A travel survey by the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board in 2007-08 found that 3.3 percent of D.C. residents commuted to work on bicycles—up 50 percent in 15 years. With bicyclists have come bike trails, bike parking and bike lanes; in the past seven years, the District has added nearly 40 miles of new bike lanes.

More good news is coming. There's progress on the Metropolitan Branch Trail connecting Union Station and Silver Spring and the expansion of cross-river bicycle access via the new 11th Street bridge. A Bike Center is set to open at Union Station in October, with guarded spots for 150 bikes, a locker room and bike merchandise for sale. This month marks the one-year anniversary of the SmartBike rental program, the first of its kind in the United States. SmartBike, with a pilot fleet of 120 bikes on 10 racks around the city, relies on a Zipcar model in which people purchase a membership to use bicycles for certain periods of time. The program has been a success, boasting more than 1,200 members who rent an average of 70 bikes on weekdays. Only one bike has been stolen.

All of these tangible improvements for the District's bikers reflect years of effort, thoughtful planning and dedicated advocates, including former Mayor Anthony A. Williams, incumbent Adrian M. Fenty and D.C. Council members. Such advocacy is still needed. Bicycling in the District is not all coasting. Theft remains a problem, as does sharing the road with cars. A lack of helmets at the SmartBike racks makes safety a concern, especially as an effort builds to expand the program. The next few years will bring continued challenges—adding new bicycle lanes, maintaining trails and encouraging developments such as cycle tracks with physical barriers to separate cyclists from traffic.

Bicycling offers wide-ranging benefits for cyclists and non-cyclists alike. It eases congestion, uses space efficiently—10 bikes can fit in a single car parking spot—and offers health benefits to everyone: those who burn calories on their bikes and non-riders who also benefit from decreased pollution and traffic.

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Stay the stimulus course

Apparently not bothered by facts, some congressional Republicans are already claiming that President Obama's \$787 billion stimulus package has failed and are even advocating that some of the remaining scheduled steps in the legislation be canceled.

In medicine, that would be malpractice. In politics, it's demagoguery. In reality, we need to stay the course.

The course now includes "Cash for Clunkers," the recently renewed federal subsidy program that encourages people to scrap their old cars and buy new, more fuel-efficient vehicles—an idea that I advocated more than a year ago. At first blush, "clunkers" seems to be the quintessentially successful stimulus program: fast-acting and apparently offering a huge bang for the buck. This sleek sports car of a policy seems to stand in stark contrast to the president's clunky stimulus package, which is sputtering along.

But that's not quite right.

First, the images of car dealerships and crushed vehicles that have been blanketing newspaper pages and TV screens do not depict real stimulus. What they show is the PRELUDE to stimulus—old cars being scrapped and new cars being sold out of inventory. The stimulus to employment comes only when automakers respond to the higher sales and depleted inventories by boosting production. Everything takes time, and you won't see the new cars manufactured on TV.

So it is with most of the stimulus measures in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The effects are there, but they will take a while to be felt, and they don't usually lend themselves to photo-ops. One good example is fiscal relief for state and local governments. It is not just in California that state and local governments are cutting back on all sorts of public services. Just over 20 percent of the \$174 billion in federal funds appropriated for the states has been spent, and that cash infusion is limiting—though not eliminating—the cutbacks. The other 80 percent is on the way. But we won't see photos of public servants not being fired.

Critics claim that the stimulus program is running way behind schedule. Is it? Well, no. While the administration certainly made an overly optimistic economic forecast in February, the stimulus bill, at about 5 percent of gross domestic product spread over more than two years, was never going to cure the patient quickly, or on its own. Rather, it was designed to cushion the fall—as it has.

The simple truth is that even the voracious U.S. government cannot spend \$787 billion quickly. Spending from the stimulus legislation is running pretty much in line with what the Congressional Budget Office

By ALAN S. BLINDER
Special to The Washington Post



The writer, a former vice chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, is a professor of economics and public affairs at Princeton University.

projected when the bill was passed—which was 24 percent in fiscal 2009 (which ends Sept. 30) and an additional 50 percent in fiscal 2010, or 74 percent in about 18 months.

These are still early days for a bill Congress passed only six months ago, but the stimulus has already had a notable impact. The average estimate of three private forecasting firms is that the stimulus added about 2 1/2 percentage points to the annualized GDP growth rate in the second quarter. (If that sounds too high, remember it means adding only about 0.6 percent to the level of GDP.) The consensus of the three firms is that the impact on third-quarter growth will be a bit larger. As they say on the farm, that ain't hay.

But let's put those numbers into perspective. The advance estimate of second-quarter GDP growth came in at negative 1 percent. That's a poor performance; we went downhill rather than uphill. But it marked a huge improvement over the disastrous first quarter (negative 6.4 percent growth) and the two quarters before that. Using the aforementioned estimates, fiscal stimulus accounted for about half of the improvement from the first quarter to the second.

We are now in the third quarter, when the importance of the stimulus is likely to be even greater. In fact, its estimated growth impact (about 3 percentage points) actually exceeds the consensus forecast for third-quarter growth—meaning that, according to current expert opinion, the stimulus will account for more than 100 percent of GDP growth this quarter.

Cartoonists may scoff at lights at the ends of tunnels, but our economy does, finally, seem to be growing again. The Recovery Act is by no means the only reason. Chairman Ben Bernanke and his colleagues at the Federal Reserve have certainly done a great deal, and the economy's self-curative powers also have helped. But what six months ago looked like an economy plunging into an abyss is now an economy on the mend. And the stimulus deserves some of the credit.

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Anniversaries of note

Every year there are certain events that have had so much impact in living memory that the media mark their anniversaries in five-year increments. Except in times of major war when significant events move rapidly, however, it is rare to have anniversaries of a number of remarkable events clustered together in short periods of time. Nonetheless, August 18 marks the end of seven-week period 40 years ago during which five notable events took place that helped shape the course of American history.

In the early morning hours of June 28, 1969, in New York City, patrons fought back against a police raid of a Greenwich Village bar called the Stonewall Inn in an episode many mark as the beginning of the gay rights movement in America. Less than three weeks later, Apollo 11 lifted off its Florida launch pad on July 16 to provide a riveted world with an adventure that culminated in man first setting foot on the moon. In the midst of the Apollo drama, Sen. Edward M. Kennedy drove off a bridge on Chappaquiddick Island on July 18, causing the drowning of a young woman and altering the trajectory of a major political career. That trauma was followed on Aug. 9-10 in California by the gruesome Tate-LaBianca murders orchestrated by Charles Manson.

Finally, the Woodstock Music Festival on a farm in upstate New York on Aug. 15-18 marked the end of "a summer of love" for the baby boom generation that now is rapidly moving into its retirement years. Woodstock is widely regarded as one of the greatest and most pivotal moments in popular music history and was listed on Rolling Stone Magazine 50 Moments That Changed the History of Rock and Roll.

Why do I make note of these events? Because I missed virtually all of them! I missed them because I spent that entire summer in the far corners of Micronesia where, no matter how momentous, news traveled very slowly 40 years ago.

From June 5, 1969, when I departed Washington, D.C. for the Pacific, to Labor Day, I suffered a virtual news blackout for nearly the entire summer of 1969. It was not until I returned home that I learned about all that I had missed, especially the five major events during the seven weeks between late June and mid-August.

After a few days of briefing in Hawaii, when I stepped off the plane on Saipan for the first time in June of 1969, it was the 25th anniversary of the beginning of the air phase of the Battle for Saipan, an event that was in the history books for someone my age. But looking back at it 40 years later, I realize now the Micronesia of that period was still living in immediate post-war conditions. To illustrate how rudimentary communications were, not only did we have to rely on the BBC over shortwave for much of our international news, but in order to speak by telephone from Washington with the Trust Territory High Commissioner on Saipan, we had to go through a military switch in Hawaii to reach an office on Guam, from which the calls to Saipan then were completed via single sideband radio!

Letter to the Editor

Unfair BOE policies

I do want to thank the Commissioner for trying to explain the frozen teacher dilemma but, as she stated, *it has haunted the system* and it will continue to do so because it defies logic and common sense in the pay for frozen teachers. I'm getting the same salary I had 10 years ago after passing Praxis; you can't tell me something isn't wrong with that scenario. Non-frozen teachers received permanent pay increases in every check from now on but frozen teachers got a single check. It doesn't take a genius to see the pay compensation for Praxis was not fair. I'm sure the Commissioner is doing her job by standing by the board's policy but just because the almighty board made a policy does not mean it will stand the test of judicial review. The policy has never been tested so the BOE can't say with 100 percent confidence that their policies are *good, tried and proven*.

The board actually created two policies to address the issue of frozen teachers. The first was a policy to pay frozen teachers a \$2,000 bonus every two years. This policy clearly allows for frozen teachers to receive a bonus but the policy is based on the availability of funds. The BOE has claimed the lack of funds for the past six years or more to avoid paying this incentive. Clearly this is a bad policy when the board can just ignore compliance forever. This policy is cruel and contemptuous of the frozen teachers. The second policy to compensate teachers for passing

Anyone who is familiar with me knows I am a news junkie and have been so as far back as I can remember—at least as far back as the summer of 1952, when I watched gavel-to-gavel coverage of the two national political conventions in glorious black and white on a 13-inch television set in my hometown Chicago, where both gatherings were being held. Of course, I watched the conventions because that's what my parents wanted to watch and even though we had only one TV, it really was all that was on anyway—except maybe for the DuMont Network. But I wasn't being forced; I wanted to watch and I got hooked. I have never missed either watching both parties' conventions or participating in every (Republican) convention since then. And I suspect it was as early as 1952 I knew it was my destiny some day to end up in Washington, where so much of the national political news is made.

After having worked on the Nixon campaign in 1968, when the president took office I was assigned to be part of a team assembled at the direction of the White House to travel to Micronesia to review economic and political conditions there in preparation for negotiations with Micronesian leaders to end the United Nations Trusteeship the U.S. had administered since the close of World War II. The other members of the team were drawn from academia, government agencies and other organizations but the idea was for me to remain attached to the Interior Department at the end of the mission to help with preparations for the first round of political status talks with delegates from the Congress of Micronesia in October 1969—yet another 40th anniversary of an event that ought to be marked by Micronesian news outlets later this year as the formal beginning of Micronesia's journey toward self-determination.

Our team spent three months in Micronesia that summer visiting all parts of the territory. We would spend a week in each district then return to Trust Territory headquarters on Saipan for a week to evaluate our findings. Although outside news was hardly more plentiful on Saipan (no newspapers yet in 1969), it was just the luck of the draw that we found ourselves in the Marshall Islands District in mid-July. Majuro, the district center then, now capital of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, was the TT outpost farthest from Saipan and the last stop on the U.S. shipping route, which started on the west coast and went to Hawaii, Guam and Saipan before doubling back to offload goods and supplies at the other islands on the way back to the mainland, with Majuro being the final stop.

The effect of Majuro's location was to make the Marshalls perpetually short of everything and last to get the news. So when Apollo 11 lifted off, were it not for the BBC on shortwave, I would not have known. Fortunately for me, I had detached from the rest of the team and was in the company of an ex-Peace Corps volunteer named Carlton Hawpe, who skippered a ketch called the Mara. The government had chartered the vessel to take supplies to the outer islands and I asked to join him on his trip to Ebon in the southern Marshalls so I could educate myself about needs in the really remote areas of Micronesia. Carlton had a shortwave radio on board and I

By FRED RADEWAGEN
Special to the Saipan Tribune

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remember us being anchored one night and listening to classical music on the shortwave that seemed to be in tempo with the gentle waves but was periodically interrupted with BBC news updates on the progress of the moon mission.

Even if I had been in the states, 40 years later I likely would not be remembering exactly where I was or what I was doing when I first learned about the Stonewall Riots, Chappaquiddick, the Manson murders or Woodstock but July 20 (21st for me across the dateline) is one of those days in life—like Nov. 22, 1963 or Sept. 11, 2001—that everyone remembers exactly where they were. I had rejoined my team on Majuro while the Apollo mission was still in progress and we had headed out for an inspection of Bikini Atoll, which was undergoing a cleanup and rehabilitation for the eventual return of the indigenous population. It was on Bikini that we learned that Neil Armstrong had successfully descended onto the surface of the moon, although we were unable to hear the broadcast live. The news was delivered to us by a military liaison officer who had accompanied us to Bikini from Kwajalein Atoll on an army aircraft.

With the dramatic communications revolution we have witnessed over the past 40 years, I can just imagine what kind of news coverage there would be today if the Stonewall, Apollo, Chappaquiddick, Manson, and Woodstock stories were occurring this year: wall-to-wall cable news coverage of Apollo; a webcam in Armstrong's space helmet; the blogosphere crazy over Stonewall and Chappaquiddick, news networks' non-stop analysis of Manson and live Internet streaming of Woodstock.

And the coverage would not be limited to the U.S. either. I'm not sure how much of the revolution has reached Ebon or Bikini but I know I likely would be watching these events unfold live if I were on Majuro and certainly so on Saipan. Ironically, these events were so big and have been replayed so often over the years, I doubt I would remember today that I did not watch them as they happened were it not for the fact that I recall where I was when Neil Armstrong set foot on the moon.

So when the media mark five-year anniversaries of these memorable stories, it is easy for me to recall that the period also marks a life-altering summer for me, for 2009 marks the 40th anniversary of my introduction to the Northern Marianas and the rest of Micronesia and the 40th anniversary of meeting on Saipan the woman who would become my wife.

PRAXIS is really a no-brainer when it comes to equality. Group A gets a continuous compensation in each paycheck and group B receives a single check not equal to the amounts given to group A. Clearly, the frozen teachers should be getting yearly bonus checks equal to the increases given to the non-frozen teachers. I'm sure it is easy to see why this will continue to haunt the system until the courts decide because the system is hiding behind a bad policy that can only be removed by the courts.

There are only a few frozen teachers, as the Commissioner said, so why can't something be done for this group of teachers who are clearly not being treated fairly? The frozen teachers are technically PSS' best teachers and I know there are many stakeholders in our education system asking why PSS isn't doing something to treat their best teachers fairly. Frozen teachers are the very core of PSS' teaching staff yet the value of their salaries is actually decreasing every year as the cost of living goes up and our salary has remained the same for almost an entire decade! PSS has frozen our quality of life! What happened to the PSS' family spirit and appreciation for the most highly skilled teachers in the PSS workforce?

As for NCLB and Praxis, I'm on the record informing the board that only a little over 50 percent will be able to pass Praxis and I

urged the board to follow Guam's example to avoid problems but they didn't. The proof of my prediction was in the details of the Commissioner's statement that only 68 percent have passed. I was right and the previous board was wrong on Praxis and here I am again trying to warn the board about the disparity with the frozen teachers and the need to abandon the presently flawed policy. I don't blame the commissioner as she is just doing her job; she serves at the pleasure of the board. But I do blame the previous board for setting up these unfair policies that created the present conditions because I warned them about the policies and they weren't listening to me for all the wrong reasons. Now it is very clear the frozen teacher issue will continue to haunt the system until a definitive resolution is reached within the system or in the courts. The decision is now up to the present board (you or the court). It would actually be a good thing if a judicial review is initiated by the board and I in fact challenge board members to submit the policies for judicial review if they are truly trying to do the right thing and are not afraid of the results. I say this because the Commissioner and myself are only stating opinions. Let's put it to the test!

Ambrose M. Bennett
Former BOE Teacher Rep

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. Northwest winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. Northwest winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. Northwest winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.
▲ 88° ▼ 77°	▲ 87° ▼ 78°	▲ 87° ▼ 77°	▲ 88° ▼ 77°	▲ 88° ▼ 78°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Partly Sunny	▲ 88 ▼ 79
Palau	Sunny	▲ 87 ▼ 78
Yap	Sunny	▲ 88 ▼ 77
Chuuk	Sunny	▲ 87 ▼ 78
Pohnpei	Showers	▲ 90 ▼ 79
Kosrae	Sunny	▲ 89 ▼ 77
Majuro	Showers	▲ 88 ▼ 79

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲ 63 ▼ 50
Beijing	Cloudy	▲ 84 ▼ 73
Hong Kong	Partly Sunny	▲ 91 ▼ 82
Honolulu	Cloudy	▲ 84 ▼ 75
London	Partly Sunny	▲ 77 ▼ 57
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲ 79 ▼ 62
Manila	Thundershowers	▲ 90 ▼ 79
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	▲ 64 ▼ 47
Miami	Thundershowers	▲ 89 ▼ 80
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲ 92 ▼ 74
Osaka	Partly Sunny	▲ 88 ▼ 74
Paris	Sunny	▲ 79 ▼ 61
Pusan	Cloudy	▲ 84 ▼ 72
Rome	Sunny	▲ 91 ▼ 68
Salem	Sunny	▲ 96 ▼ 55
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	▲ 78 ▼ 58
Seoul	Partly Sunny	▲ 91 ▼ 72
Tokyo	Partly Sunny	▲ 82 ▼ 70
Washington, DC	Partly Sunny	▲ 90 ▼ 75

Tides

Saipan Harbor	
4:13 AM Today	High Tide: 1.9 Feet
11:55 AM Today	Low Tide: 0.5 Feet
7:08 PM Today	High Tide: 1.9 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	6:03 AM	6:39 PM	Today	3:21 AM	4:44 PM
Wednesday	6:03 AM	6:38 PM	Wednesday	4:27 AM	5:36 PM
Thursday	6:03 AM	6:38 PM	Thursday	5:31 AM	6:24 PM
Friday	6:03 AM	6:37 PM	Friday	6:32 AM	7:09 PM
Saturday	6:03 AM	6:37 PM	Saturday	6:32 AM	7:09 PM

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■ TRAVELOGUE

Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

■ CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

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To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 18, 2009

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

C09597 11:50am 12:25pm 1, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

C09597 12:50pm 1:20pm 1, 7

SAIPAN-CUAM

C09317 4:20am 5:10am Daily

C09313 8:30am 9:20am Daily

C09597 11:50am 1:20pm 1, 7 via ROP

C09601 12:30pm 1:20pm 4, 5

C09603 3:30pm 4:20pm Daily

C09605 6:30pm 7:20pm Daily

C09599 9:30pm 10:20pm Daily

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

C09598 3:15am 3:50am 5, 6

C09312 1:20pm 1:55pm 6

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

C09598 2:10am 2:40am 5, 6

C09312 12:10pm 12:40pm 6

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09598 2:10am 3:50am 5, 6 via ROP

C09316 2:20am 3:10am 1, 2, 3, 4, 7

C09596 7:00am 7:50am Daily

C09600 10:20am 11:10am 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7

C09312 12:10pm 1:55pm 6 via ROP

C09602 2:00pm 2:50pm 1, 4, 5, 7

C09604 5:00pm 5:50pm Daily

C09606 8:00pm 8:50pm Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

C0941 5:30am 8:05am Daily

NW99 6:05am 8:40am Daily

NW78 9:00am 2:05pm Daily via NGO

NW75 3:50pm 6:25pm Daily

C0943 5:25pm 8:00pm Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

C0942 9:25am 1:55pm Daily

NW76 10:00am 2:35pm Daily

NW77 6:35pm 1:40pm+1 Daily via NGO

NW100 8:45pm 1:20pm+1 Daily

C0944 9:00pm 1:30pm+1 Daily

SAIPAN-Osaka (KIX)

OZ119 4:00am 6:40am Daily

SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO)

NW78 9:00am 11:40am Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608 3:20am 6:50am 1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604 2:20am 6:00am 1

OZ604 2:50am 6:30am 2, 3,

Business

Japan's economy rebounds in 2Q on export growth

By YURI KAGEYAMA
AP BUSINESS WRITER

TOKYO (AP)—Japan's economy broke free of recession in the second quarter, expanding 3.7 percent at an annual pace on a strong rebound in exports, joining Germany, France and other economies in recovering from the global financial crisis.

The recovery in the April-June quarter was driven by robust demand for exports such as video recorders and other electronics goods, said Kingo Toyoda of the Cabinet Office. Shipments to China and other emerging markets were particularly strong. Exports grew 6.3 percent quarter-on-quarter, the highest growth since the second quarter of 2002.

Government stimulus measures have also helped, such as cash handouts and incentives to buy ecological products — although economists warned that the impact of such measures may peter out.

Despite the increase in exports, economists said the nascent recovery could quickly run out of steam because domestic demand remains weak. Salaries are falling and the unemployment rate has risen to a six-year high of 5.4 percent as companies such as Toyota Mo-

tor Corp. and Sony Corp. have cut thousands of jobs.

During the quarter through June 30, compensation for employees dipped 1.7 percent, the data showed, while consumer spending edged up a tepid 0.8 percent.

"When you look at the numbers, the contrast between external demand and internal demand is as clear as night

and day," said Hiroshi Watanabe, economist with Daiwa Institute of Research in Tokyo. "With payments falling, it's really hard to expect individual spending to hold up."

The rebound in the world's second-largest economy came after a steep, yearlong contraction in gross domestic product, including a worst-ever drop in the final quarter of 2008, when

the economy shrank at a 13.1 percent pace.

The news from Japan comes amid signs that the global economy may be recovering from its slump. Last week, France and Germany, Europe's two biggest economies, said they resumed growing in the second quarter, while Hong Kong also said it expanded after a yearlong recession.



People walk by an electronic stock indicator in Tokyo, Japan, Monday, Aug. 17, 2009.

APAFS enlists FINEX for Pacific investment conference in Manila

The Financial Executives Institute of the Philippines, the country's premier organization for financial management leaders, once again committed its support for the upcoming Pacific Region Investment Conference, organized by the Asia Pacific Association for Fiduciary Studies, to be held in Manila, Philippines, in October of this year.

APAFS annually holds the highly-esteemed investment conference where around 400 delegates consist of financial executives and professionals as well as members of fiduciary institutions converge to learn from world-class experts and gain regional understanding of current economic issues.

Partnerships have always been a part of the prestigious investment conference. Daniel Roland, CIMA, APAFS executive director said: "We continually seek partnerships with organizations such as FINEX because those key connections contribute to the great success of the Pacific Region Investment Conference. It is through an environment of collaboration that regional understanding and a wide-range of knowledge are achieved."

Both APAFS and FINEX are dedicated to providing its members with current knowledge in policies, trends, programs and issues in the finance industry. FINEX is particularly devoted to the continuing development of financial management and efficiency in business enterprises.

Roberto Borromeo, FINEX president, said: "This partnership will not only enhance but strengthen our Institute's advocacy in providing professional development, through training and continuing education, to our finance professionals."

A number of key global players in the financial industry have also pledged their support for the upcoming conference, such as Atalanta Sosnoff Capital; Metropolitan West Capital Management; ASC Trust Company; Nicholas Applegate Capital Management; Milliman, Inc.; Davis Hamilton and Jackson Associates; Robeco Investment Management; Capis; Franklin Templeton; Fisher Investments Institutional Group; Income Research & Management; Richmond Capital; Renaissance Investment Management; Louis Boulanger Now Ltd.; BMG Bullion Bars; Merrill Lynch; Janus Capital Group; Morgan Stanley Smith Barney; Glimpses of Guam; Payden & Rygel; and Continental Airlines.

The Pacific Region Investment Conference is set to be held on Oct. 8 and 9 at Renaissance Makati City Hotel Manila. To learn more about APAFS and the upcoming Pacific Region Investment Conference, log on to www.apafs.org. (PR-APAFS)

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Chinese steelworkers' protest halts plant takeover

BEIJING (AP)—China on Sunday called off the takeover of a state-owned steel plant after workers protested and trapped an official in the factory office for four days—the second time in a month that the country's steelworkers have rallied to successfully avoid privatization. Authorities in central Henan province decided to stop the takeover of Linzhou Iron and Steel Co. Ltd. to calm workers who had protested since Tuesday against the restructuring and to demand higher compensation, the official Xinhua News Agency said. A similar protest last month in the northeast led to the general manager of a state-owned steel plant being beaten to death. That plant's merger was called off as well.

Mass. rejects settlement offer in Madoff scandal

BOSTON (AP)—Massachusetts Secretary of State William Galvin's office has rejected a proposed settlement by an investment firm to repay nearly \$6 million to state investors who lost money in Bernard Madoff's fraudulent investment scheme. Galvin spokesman Brian McNiff said Sunday that his agency is not accepting New York-based Fairfield Greenwich Group's offer to fully refund nearly a dozen investors in

the state because officials are still trying to identify all the affected investors. Galvin filed a civil fraud complaint against Fairfield Greenwich in April, saying officials were coached by Madoff on how to answer federal investigators' questions and misrepresented how much they knew. The secretary of state's securities division has set a hearing for Sept. 9. The firm disputes Galvin's allegations.

NKorea says Kim Jong Il met Hyundai Group chief

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korean leader Kim Jong Il held talks with the head of South Korea's Hyundai Group, the North's state media reported Sunday, in a rare meeting that could warm prospects for a resumption of stalled cross-border projects. Kim and Hyun Jeong-eun, Hyundai's chairwoman, had a "cordial talk," on Sunday, the Korean Central News Agency reported in a brief dispatch from Pyongyang, though it provided few details. Just days earlier, the North freed a Hyundai worker whom it had detained for months. Pyongyang accused the worker of denouncing North Korea's government. Hyundai is a key participant in the cross-border projects that have been stalled since July last year when a North Korean soldier shot a South Korean tourist at a mountain resort in the North.

Wall Street sees shoppers as key to rally's future

NEW YORK (AP)—On Wall Street, the average shopper can trump a Federal Reserve policy maker.

With other parts of the economy showing signs of improvement, the question of when a recovery will occur and how strong it will be lies with consumers. So reports last week showing weaker-than-expected retail sales and flagging consumer confidence overshadowed an upbeat view of the economy from the Federal Reserve. The major indexes ended the week with a loss of about half a percent, their first

weekly losses in five weeks.

"Anything pointing to the health of the consumer and its willingness to spend is going to be watched closely," said Ryan Jacob, president of Jacob Asset Management in Los Angeles.

This week, the consumer is in focus again as a stream of retailers report second-quarter earnings. Wall Street will want to know if retail companies, like businesses in other industries, made money primarily because of cost-cutting rather than from improved revenue or sales.

The nation's biggest retailer, Wal-Mart Stores Inc., last week

followed the trend set by other companies, reporting earnings that beat Wall Street forecasts but also saying that its most important sales, those from stores open at least a year, fell during the quarter. And it's likely that other retailers still to announce results will continue that pattern.

Eventually, investors will need to see rising sales in order to become confident about the economy's ability to show sustained growth. Consumer spending accounts for more than two-thirds of the nation's economic activity.

"We'll get a very good range

States weigh benefits, risks of drilling in parks

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP)—State parks aren't just for hiking, camping and other recreation anymore. Increasingly, these lands are being used for oil and gas drilling as budget-strapped states seek new sources of revenue.

As they allow more energy exploration in state parks—in some cases by reversing previous bans—lawmakers are being met with resistance from environmentalists and park officials.

Opponents of the drilling say it raises troubling questions about acceptable uses of publicly shared land—even when new technology allows rigs po-

sitioned outside park boundaries to reach petroleum pockets deep beneath the parks by drilling horizontally.

Sean Logan, director of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, said parks get 40 percent of their money from fees related to camping, boating, beach access and other recreational activities. If drilling affects the panoramas or the noise level, these other revenue sources could start suffering, he said.

Drilling is still barred in national parks. But the reversal of some state bans coincides with efforts to expand exploration in

other previously off-limits locations: offshore in coastal states, near Aztec ruins in New Mexico and in some urban parks.

Arkansas has signed a lease allowing drilling to begin under Woolly Hollow State Park. Pennsylvania saw its first drilling on state park property this spring.

In July, a circuit court judge in West Virginia ruled against the state environmental protection agency's attempt to block drilling under Chief Logan State Park. The first well in Living Desert Zoo and Gardens State Park in Carlsbad, N.M., was drilled in 2007.

Nation

White House appears ready to drop 'public option'

WASHINGTON (AP)—Bowing to Republican pressure and an uneasy public, President Barack Obama's administration signaled Sunday it is ready to abandon the idea of giving Americans the option of government-run insurance as part of a new health care system.

Facing mounting opposition to the overhaul, administration officials left open the chance for a compromise with Republicans that would include health insurance cooperatives instead of a government-run plan. Such a concession probably would enrage Obama's liberal supporters but could deliver a much-needed victory on a top domestic priority opposed by GOP lawmakers.

Officials from both political parties reached across the aisle in an effort to find compromises on proposals they left behind when they returned to their districts for an August recess. Obama had wanted the government to run a health insurance organization to help cover the nation's almost 50 million uninsured, but didn't include it as one of his core principles of reform.

Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius

said that government alternative to private health insurance is "not the essential element" of the administration's health care overhaul. The White House would be open to co-ops, she said, a sign that Democrats want a compromise so they can declare a victory.

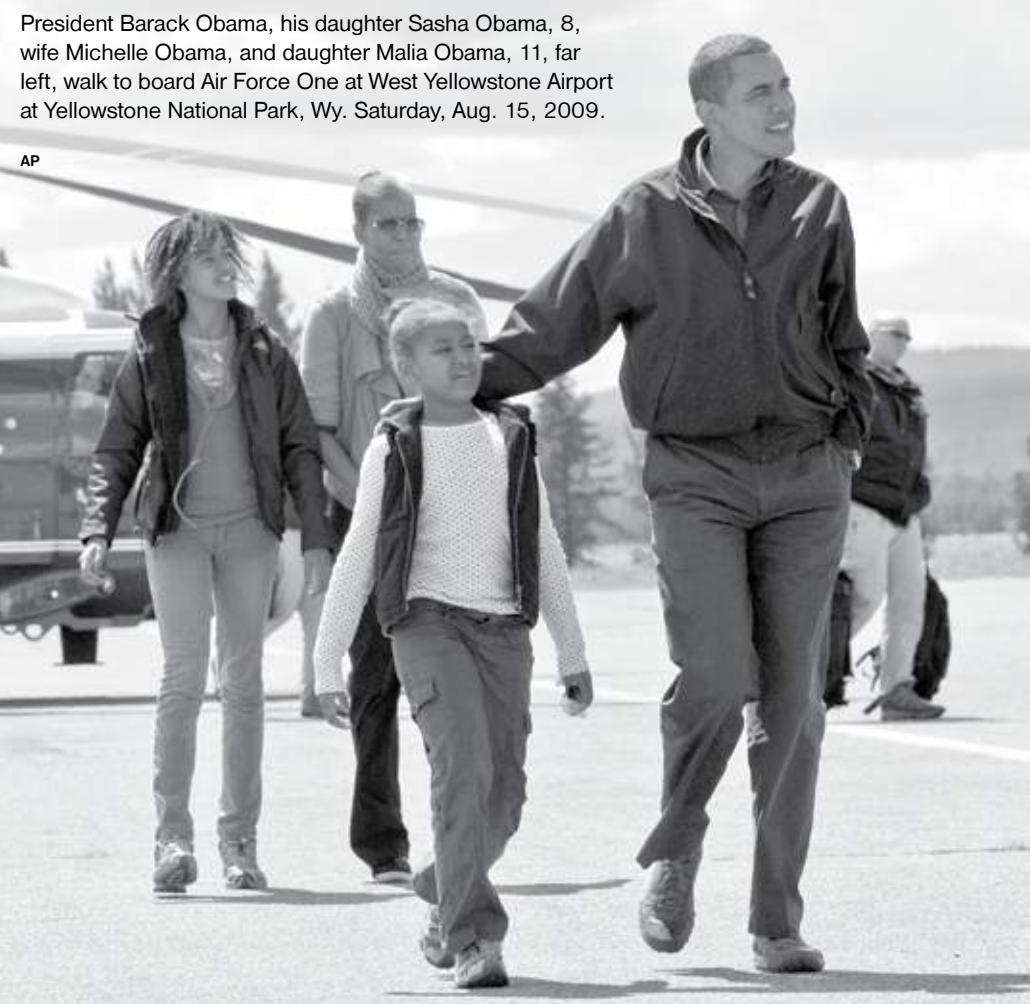
Under a proposal by Sen. Kent Conrad, D-N.D., consumer-owned nonprofit cooperatives would sell insurance in competition with private industry, not unlike the way electric and agriculture co-ops operate, especially in rural states such as his own.

With \$3 billion to \$4 billion in initial support from the government, the co-ops would operate under a national structure with state affiliates, but independent of the government. They would be required to maintain the type of financial reserves that private companies are required to keep in case of unexpectedly high claims.

"I think there will be a competitor to private insurers," Sebelius said. "That's really the essential part, is you don't turn over the whole new marketplace to private insurance companies and trust them to do the right thing."

President Barack Obama, his daughter Sasha Obama, 8, wife Michelle Obama, and daughter Malia Obama, 11, far left, walk to board Air Force One at West Yellowstone Airport at Yellowstone National Park, Wyo. Saturday, Aug. 15, 2009.

AP



Obama's spokesman refused to say a public option was a make-or-break choice.

"What I am saying is the bottom line for this for the president is, what we have to have is choice and competition in the insurance market," White House press secretary Robert Gibbs said Sunday.

A day before, Obama appeared to hedge his bets.

"All I'm saying is, though, that the public option, whether we have it or we don't have it, is not the entirety of health care reform," Obama said at a town hall meeting in Grand Junction, Colo. "This is just one sliver of it, one aspect of it."

It's hardly the same rhetoric Obama employed during a constant, personal campaign for legislation.

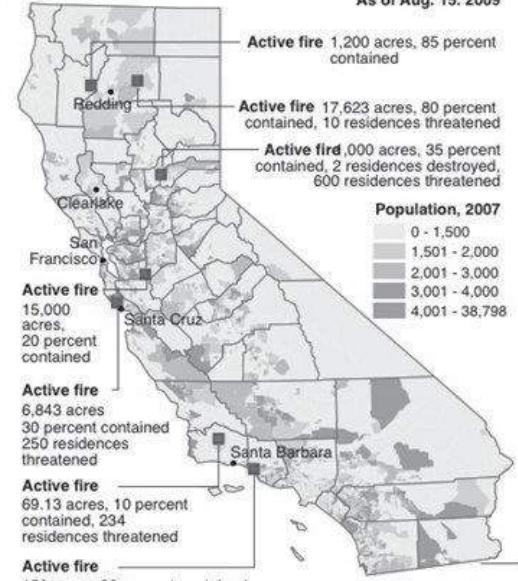
"I am pleased by the progress we're making on health care reform and still believe, as I've said before, that one of the best ways to bring down costs, provide more choices and assure quality is a public option that will force the insurance companies to compete and keep them honest," Obama said in July.

Evacuation lifted from town threatened by fire

Wildfires fire threaten hundreds

California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger urged residents to heed mandatory evacuation orders as firefighters battled nearly a dozen blazes across the state.

As of Aug. 15, 2009



DAVENPORT, Calif. (AP)—Hundreds of residents returned home when an evacuation order was lifted in a Santa Cruz mountain town Sunday, even as hot and dry winds fanned nearly a dozen wildfires across the state.

Bonny Doon residents trickling home along newly reopened roads were relieved to be out of immediate danger, but still apprehensive because containment lines built by firefighters are holding back only half the blaze. That fire has burned through about 10 square miles of the rugged terrain since Wednesday.

A state of emergency was declared in the county. Other blazes forced evacuations and knocked out power in other parts of the state.

Margaret Kliegel was at the fire command center in Davenport on Sunday afternoon dropping off bread and cookies for the fire crew when she learned she could return home. She left her house Thursday as the flames shot into the air three miles away.

"We've lived here for close to 40 years so you got all your mementos and family things, and you don't know if you'll have a home to go back to," Kliegel said. "Second time in 14 months that these guys have saved us."

Milwaukee mayor hospitalized after pipe attack

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett remained hospitalized Sunday after a man attacked him with a metal pipe as the mayor tried to assist a grandmother screaming for help near the Wisconsin State Fair.

Barrett, 55, was in stable condition at a local hospital with a fractured hand and other head and hand wounds, official said.

The mayor had gone to the fair outside Milwaukee on Saturday night with his sister, two daughters and a niece. As the group left and walked to Barrett's car, they heard a woman screaming for someone to call 911, police said.

Police said the woman was a grandmother who was trying to protect her 1-year-old granddaughter from a 20-year-old man, an assault authorities characterized as a domestic dispute.

"The mayor stopped and said something (to the man) like, 'Let's all cool down here, I'm going to call 911,'" the mayor's spokesman Patrick Cur-

ley said. "He said it one or two times according to him. When he took out his phone, that's when the suspect attacked him."

The suspect hit Barrett in the head and torso with a metal pipe. Barrett apparently fought back, fracturing his hand when he punched the suspect.

"I think he hit the guy," Curley said. "I don't know where, but it was hard enough, whatever he hit, to fracture his hand."

The suspect then fled the area when he heard sirens. He was arrested on Sunday at a Milwaukee home, and police recovered the alleged weapon. The woman and baby were uninjured.

The mayor, who did not ask for security to accompany him to the fair because he wasn't on official duty, underwent successful surgery Sunday on his fractured right hand and also had cuts on his head and lip stitched up, Curley said. The mayor likely will remain in the hospital through Monday, he said.

ACROSS THE NATION

3 brothers shot dead in western Wisconsin

MENOMONIE, Wis. (AP)—A gunman opened fire on a group of people outside a trailer home in western Wisconsin, killing three brothers before critically wounding himself, police said Sunday. Menomonie Police Sgt. Andrew Crouse said a 23-year-old man from St. Paul, Minn. shot and killed the brothers late Saturday and wounded another man in the western Wisconsin trailer park. The three brothers, all from the Menomonie area, were identified as Toua Kong, 32; Siong Kong, 25; and Seng Kong, 13. The shooting took place in front of the trailer where Siong lived. The two other brothers lived in a different trailer, Crouse said. Police said the fourth man—identified as 25-year-old Toua Xiong, of Menomonie—was taken to an area hospital with non-life-threatening wounds.

Fort Campbell welcomes home Vietnam vets

FORT CAMPBELL, Ky. (AP)—Tears filled the eyes of some Vietnam veterans who were warmly greeted with cheers from their family and friends Sunday in an re-enactment of their original return from the war, when they were often met with angry demonstrators and harsh headlines. The ceremony was a first for the 101st Airborne Division and the Army, said Maj. Patrick Seiber, an Army spokesman based at Fort Campbell in Kentucky. "Our hope is that other units and other posts will follow our lead in having this type of ceremony," he said. Mickey Leighton, a 72-year-old Army veteran from Naples, Fla., said listening to the applause and praise from the community was very emotional.

Police: NY man beaten in racially charged robbery

NEW YORK (AP)—A Hispanic man told investigators he was beaten and robbed in a racially charged attack in a Long Island community where another Hispanic was killed in an alleged hate crime last fall, police said. The latest incident happened around 11:30 p.m. Friday in Patchogue, where the earlier attack prompted a U.S. Depart-

ment of Justice investigation into allegations of hate crimes on eastern Long Island. The victim in the latest episode told investigators that three young white men called him over and engaged him in conversation as he walked along Division Avenue in Patchogue, about 50 miles east of Manhattan. One man then hit him in the face and knocked him to the ground, and the three stole cash and other items from him while making disparaging remarks about his ancestry, he told police.

Men charged after fatal line-cutting dispute

TAMPA, Fla. (AP)—A dispute over line-cutting at a roadside food stand led to the shooting death of a bystander and the serious injury of another man, Tampa police said. Police arrested two men in the case Friday, Juan Martinez-Morales, 20, and Leeching-Hong Luberisse, 18. Both were booked into jail Saturday on charges of second-degree murder, attempted murder and being a felon in possession of a firearm, according to Hillsborough County jail records. It's unclear who cut in line. But on Aug. 8, Luberisse punched Eriberto Reyes, 27, while waiting at a vendor's food cart that was set up on Hillsborough Avenue, Tampa police reported. Martinez-Morales then pulled a gun and shot Reyes three times in the abdomen, police said.

NYC schools prepare for 2nd outbreak of swine flu

NEW YORK (AP)—At St. Francis Preparatory School this fall, the auditorium will double as a sick room. New York City might make students wash their hands several times a day. There will be a unit on swine flu in health class. In the weeks after the swine flu outbreak that began at the Queens parochial school, New York City became a viral epicenter and focus of the nation's fears of the illness, sickening as many as 1 million, killing 47 people and closing dozens of public and private schools. While educators and health officials decide how best to ward off a stronger strain of the virus in the fall, St. Francis Assistant Principal Patrick McLaughlin said his students may have already learned from experience to be vigilant.

Asia

1,000 still stranded as Taiwan storm aid arrives

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—The first shipments of foreign aid arrived Sunday as Taiwan struggled to reach more than 1,000 people still stranded a week after its deadliest typhoon in half a century.

As plastic sheeting for makeshift housing arrived from the U.S. and water purification tablets came from Australia, taxi drivers in the capital, Taipei, pitched in, driving rice and instant noodles to the island's hard-hit rural south.

President Ma Ying-jeou, who says the death toll from Morakot is likely to exceed 500, offered another apology for his government's response to the disaster after families said more lives could have been saved.

"Sorry we were late," he told people in Pingtung County. "As the president, I will take full responsibility in getting the remaining work done well."

The head of Taiwan's relief operation, Mao Chi-kuo, denied mounting criticism that authorities had failed to evacuate villagers soon enough, blaming the record rainfall instead.

"We received in three days the amount of rainfall that would normally accumulate over one year," he told reporters.

Morakot dumped more than 80 inches (two meters) of rain in the rural south. The storm was the island's deadliest weather disaster since 1959, when more than 600 perished in a typhoon.

Mao said 3,000 villagers had been airlifted over the weekend, leaving about 1,000 still stranded in the ruins of flooded and mudslide-hit villages. All together, 35,000 villagers have been rescued from 44 hard-hit villages in the south, he said.

"We understand that people wanted us to do better and do it faster," he said.

The rescue operation has relied mainly on helicopters because bridges collapsed and roads were washed away.

2 Philippine helicopters hit by rebel fire

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Suspected al-Qaida-linked militants fired at two low-flying military helicopters Sunday near a southern Philippine village where deadly clashes erupted last week, wounding two journalists and a government photographer, officials said.

The UH-1H Huey helicopters, carrying air force crewmen, a TV crew from the state-run National Broadcasting Network and a government photographer, made an emergency landing in Lamitan city on Basilan Island, regional military commander Maj. Gen. Benjamin Dolorfino said.

Government troops stormed two strongholds of the Abu Sayyaf Muslim extremist

Resettlement of an estimated 7,000 people whose homes were destroyed could speed up after a batch of prefabricated houses arrives from Britain on Sunday, with more coming from China, the country's relief center said.

Taiwan's Foreign Ministry said helicopters from the U.S. that can carry cranes and backhoes were expected to arrive soon to help in rescues and in the rebuilding of roads.

More than 59 countries have offered aid, it said.

China's official Xinhua News Agency said action movie star Jet Li's One Foundation Project had allocated 300,000

yuan (\$44,000) to Taiwan for typhoon relief.

At the Cishan landing zone in the south, a main drop-off point for those rescued, hundreds have waited anxiously for days hoping to find relatives.

Among the survivors was 67-year-old Huang Jih, who walked hours to safety across the rugged terrain, carrying his mother on his back. Now he was worried about how he could support his family of seven.

"I have lost all my things," his 102-year-old mother Tseng Jih told ETTV, crying on her makeshift bed. "What am I going to wear when I die?"



Taiwanese people carry supply goods for victims to the flooded village of Maolin, southern Taiwan, following Typhoon Morakot, Saturday, Aug. 15, 2009.

group last Wednesday in predominantly Muslim Basilan, about 550 miles (880 kilometers) south of Manila, sparking fierce daylong clashes that killed 23 soldiers and 31 militants, the military said.

It said the encampments were used for bomb-making training and to detain kidnapping victims.

Rear Adm. Alex Pama, who helped supervise Wednesday's offensive—the deadliest in years—said Abu Sayyaf gunmen who were being hunted by troops may have fired at the helicopters.

The Hueys were flying back to a military camp in Zamboanga city at low altitude because of low clouds when both were

hit. They did not return fire because there were civilian houses nearby, Pama said.

Metal debris hit a TV journalist, a cameraman and a photographer, Dolorfino said.

The three were briefly treated at a hospital, Pama said.

The Abu Sayyaf is on a U.S. list of terrorist organizations and is suspected of having received funds and training from al-Qaida.

Although weakened by yearslong U.S.-backed offensives, about 400 Abu Sayyaf gunmen on Basilan and nearby Jolo Island and the Zamboanga peninsula have recently turned to ransom kidnappings to raise funds for terror attacks.

Magnitude-6.8 quake strikes off Japan

TOKYO (AP)—A magnitude-6.8 earthquake hit between Japan's southernmost islands and the coast of Taiwan on Monday, briefly prompting a tsunami warning, the Japanese Meteorological Agency said.

The quake struck at 09:06 a.m. (8:06 p.m. EST Sunday; 0006 GMT Monday) about 80 miles (130 kilometers) southwest of Ishigaki. The Japanese resort island is about 125 miles (200 kilometers) east of Taiwan and some 1,000 miles (1,600 kilometers) south of Tokyo. The quake struck at a depth of about six miles (10 kilometers), the agency said.

Naoto Otake, a police official on Ishigaki, said there were no immediate reports of

damage or casualties on the island, which has a population of 40,000.

"Nothing fell during the quake. Electricity, water and gas are all working," Otake said. He said authorities warned residents to stay away from beaches via speakers on patrolling police cars. But the agency lifted the tsunami warning 50 minutes later.

Japan is one of the world's most earthquake-prone countries. The most recent major quake in Japan killed more than 6,400 people in the western port city of Kobe in January 1995.

Taiwan's Central Weather Bureau said the quake was felt there as well. There were no

immediate reports of casualties or damage. Although the Japanese agency put the preliminary magnitude at 6.8, Taiwan's agency recorded it at 6.5.

The Taiwanese agency said the quake struck at 8:05 a.m. local time (8:05 EST Sunday; 0005 GMT Monday), some 118 miles (188 kilometers) southeast of the east coast city of Hualien. That puts its epicenter about 160 miles (260 kilometers) east of the area devastated by Typhoon Morakot on Aug. 8-9.

Taiwan's president says the storm has claimed about 500 lives. Efforts are continuing to rescue thousands of people still stranded after floods and mudslides cut off roads.

Gunmen fire at bus at US mine in Indonesia

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—Gunmen fired Sunday at a bus carrying employees of U.S. mining giant Freeport in eastern Indonesia, injuring five, police and a news report said, in the latest in a series of attacks near the world's largest gold mine that have killed three people.

The official Antara news agency said the bus was attacked as it transported workers to the mine in Papua province. It said the five were hurt by broken glass.

Papua police spokesman Lt. Col. Agus Rianto confirmed the shooting but said he had no information about injuries. A

Freeport spokesman could not immediately be reached.

Gunmen fired at another bus in a similar attack Wednesday just after it dropped off Freeport employees. No one was hurt.

A series of ambushes near the mine since July 8 have left three dead. Police have arrested nine suspects, including two Freeport employees, who face charges of premeditated murder and illegal weapons possession.

The mine is a source of tension in Papua, a remote and underdeveloped region that is also home to a low-level insurgency seeking independence from the government.

ment thousands of miles (kilometers) away in the capital, Jakarta.

It is unclear if the rebels, who have been implicated in attacks in the past, were involved in the latest shootings.

The company has been regularly targeted by arson and roadside bombs since production began in the 1970s. It is also the focus of regular protests by local residents who feel they are not benefiting from the depletion of Papua's natural resources.

It is difficult to get accurate information out of Papua, a remote and highly militarized area that is off limits to foreign journalists.

ASIAN BRIEFS

NKorea agrees to resume joint projects with SKorea

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea announced Monday it would resume reunions of families separated by the border with South Korea and restart stalled tourism ventures in its latest gesture of conciliation after nearly 18 months of rising tensions. The North, however, said separately it was putting its army on "special alert" because of South Korea's joint military drills with the United States this week, a sign that hostility and distrust between the rival countries remain high. The official Korean Central News Agency said in a dispatch early Monday that it agreed to restart tours to the scenic Diamond Mountain resort and ancient sights in Kaesong in the North.

Heavy rains flood camps for displaced Sri Lankans

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)—Heavy rains have caused havoc in camps housing nearly 300,000 people displaced by war in Sri Lanka's war-ravaged north, an official said Sunday. The flooding has raised fears for the welfare of the ethnic Tamils living in tents and makeshift shelters. Downpours in the last two days have forced authorities to move hundreds in the Manik Farm camp to safer areas. Rights groups have urged the government to free the civilians, whose camps are guarded by soldiers and strung with barbed wire, saying the detentions are illegal.

Taliban threatens polling stations in Afghanistan

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan (AP)—The Taliban are threatening to attack polling centers in the key southern province of Kandahar, a warning likely to have a chilling effect on potential voters in this week's presidential election. Afghanistan's intelligence service chief, meanwhile, said authorities were making progress in convincing some Taliban to leave voters alone Thursday, when Afghans will select a president and members of provincial councils. Militants have promised to disrupt the poll, in which President Hamid Karzai hopes to win another five-year term.

Myanmar release of US man could thaw relations

BANGKOK (AP)—Myanmar freed an ailing American whom it had sentenced to seven years of hard labor and handed him to an influential U.S. senator on Sunday, a move that could help persuade Washington to soften its hardline policy against the military regime. Sen. Jim Webb of Virginia, who secured John Yettaw's freedom, said he believes years of sanctions have failed to move the Southeast Asian country toward democratic reforms or talks with detained opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi. Webb said he would discuss his conclusions and recommendations with Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton and others on his return to Washington.

World

Iran defies condemnation, expands opposition trial

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—Iran expanded a mass trial of opposition supporters on Sunday with the addition of 25 defendants—including a Jewish teenager—in defiance of international condemnation, as France said Iran agreed to release a French woman held on spying charges from prison.

The defendants are among more than 100 people charged with plotting a “soft revolution” against the Islamic theocracy during the postelection protests. The mass trial is part of an attempt to put an end to the protests by those who say Mahmoud Ahmadinejad’s June 12 re-election was the result of fraud.

In apparent attempt to fend off criticism and move ahead with his second term, Ahmadinejad named three women who, if confirmed, would be Iran’s first female Cabinet ministers since the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

The trial, now in its third session, has included a number of televised confessions and has

drawn international condemnation from human rights groups that allege the confessions are coerced. The U.S. last week labeled the event a “show trial.”

The trial and official acknowledgments that some detainees have been abused in prison have only added to anger among both opposition supporters and some conservatives upset with the treatment of protesters.

The additional defendants

brought the total number being tried to 135.

The defendants include a number of high-ranking politicians linked to the country’s pro-reform movement as well as employees from the British and French embassies and an Iranian-Canadian reporter for Newsweek magazine.

A 24-year-old French academic, Clotilde Reiss, who had appeared during one of the pre-

vious court sessions, was freed Sunday from an Iranian prison, the French president’s office said late Sunday.

She was arrested July 1 for attending a postelection demonstration. During her court appearance, Reiss apologized for attending the demonstration but said she did so because she was curious. The French Foreign Minister has said the statement was “worked on,” suggesting it was coerced.



DEADLY BLAZE

Burnt debris after a fire broke out at a wedding tent on Saturday night Aug. 15, 2009, in Kuwait City, Kuwait. The fire at a wedding tent in Kuwait that killed 41 women and children consumed the structure in a blazing inferno lasting just three minutes, leaving behind shoes melted to the ground and bodies so blackened they were unrecognizable, the fire department chief said Sunday. Authorities were using DNA tests to identify the 35 women and six children killed.

Mexico cartels go from drugs to full-scale mafias

CIUDAD HIDALGO, Mexico (AP)—Shopkeepers in this pine-covered mountain region easily recite the list of “protection” fees they pay to La Familia drug cartel to stay in business: 100 pesos a month for a stall in a street market, 30,000 pesos for an auto dealership or construction-supply firm.

First offense for nonpayment: a severe beating. Those who keep ignoring the fees—or try to charge their own—may pay with their lives.

“Every day you can see the people they have beaten up be-

ing taken to the IMSS,” said auto mechanic Jesus Hernandez, motioning to the government-run hospital a few doors from his repair shop.

Mexican drug cartels have morphed into full-scale mafias, running extortion and protection rackets and trafficking everything from people to pirated DVDs. As once-lucrative cocaine profits have fallen and U.S. and Mexican authorities crack down on all drug trafficking to the U.S., gangs are branching into new ventures—some easier and more profit-

able than drugs. The expansion has major implications as President Felipe Calderon continues his 2 1/2-year-old drug war, which has killed more than 11,000 people and turned formerly tranquil rural towns such as Ciudad Hidalgo into major battlefronts.

Organized crime is seeping into Mexican society in ways not seen before, making it ever more difficult to combat. Besides controlling businesses, cartels provide jobs and social services where government has failed.

US military denies role in Honduras coup flight

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras (AP)—The U.S. military said Sunday its troops in Honduras did not know of and played no role in a flight that took ousted President Manuel Zelaya to exile during a military coup.

Zelaya says the Honduran military plane that flew him to Costa Rica on June 28 stopped to refuel at Soto Cano, a Honduran air base that is home to 600 U.S. soldiers, sailors and airmen engaged in counter-narcotics operations and other missions in Central America.

U.S. forces at Soto Cano “were not involved in the flight

that carried President Zelaya to Costa Rica on June 28,” Southern Command spokesman Robert Appin said in an e-mail to The Associated Press. The American troops “had no knowledge or part in the decisions made for the plane to land, refuel and take off.”

Appin said the U.S. troops at Soto Cano have stopped conducting exercises with the Honduran military since the coup.

“The U.S. military recognizes that the situation must be resolved by Hondurans and their democratic institutions in accordance with the rule of law,” he said.

The administration of President Barack Obama has cut off millions of dollars in military and development aid to Honduras in an effort to pressure for Zelaya’s reinstatement. It has stopped short of imposing trade sanctions that could cripple the Honduran economy, which is highly dependent on exports to the United States.

Zelaya, a wealthy rancher who aligned himself with leftist Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez during his presidency, has increasingly voiced frustration with Washington for failing to impose tougher penalties.

WORLD BRIEFS

12 foreign ecotourists robbed on trip in Peru

LIMA (AP)—Peruvian police say gunmen robbed 12 foreigners on an ecological tourism trip to the Manu nature reserve on a popular forest route. Authorities say four robbers took an undetermined amount of cash, cameras and video equipment around noon Sunday but did not harm any of the victims. The incident occurred in the Tres Cruces area of the Cusco region, nearly 600 kilometers (375 miles) southeast of Lima. The tour included seven Dutch citizens, two Americans, two Indonesians and an Australian.

Mexico replaces customs staff, revamps borders

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Mexico has replaced all 700 of its customs inspectors with agents newly trained to detect contraband, from guns and drugs to TVs and other big-ticket appliances smuggled to avoid import duties. The shake-up—part of a broader effort to root out corruption and improve vigilance at Mexican ports with new technology—doubled the size of Mexico’s customs inspection force. The inspectors at all 49 of Mexico’s customs points were replaced with 1,400 better-educated agents who have undergone background checks and months of training, Tax Administration Service spokesman Pedro Canabal said Sunday.

2 Russian jets collide, crash in air show training

MOSCOW (AP)—Two Russian air force jets rehearsing aerobatic maneuvers collided Sunday

near Moscow, killing one stunt pilot and sending one fighter crashing into nearby vacation homes, a military official said. The Su-27 fighters were part of the elite Russian Knights flying group preparing to perform at the MAKS-2009 air show, the largest and most important showcase for Russia’s aerospace industry. The jets collided near Zhukovsky airfield, east of Moscow, where the air show opens Tuesday. Air force spokesman Lt. Col. Vladimir Drik said all three pilots involved ejected. He said rescuers recovered two in satisfactory condition but the third was killed.

Russian envoy: search continues for missing ship

MOSCOW (AP)—Russia’s envoy to NATO said Sunday that operations to find a missing freighter and its 15 Russian crew members are in full swing and he was optimistic of quick success. Russian and European maritime officials are searching for the Maltese-flagged Arctic Sea and its euro1.3 million (\$1.8 million) cargo of timber. Dmitry Rogozin told state-run Vesti TV that Russian officials are in close contact with their NATO counterparts. “The operation is ... unfolding positively. It’s giving us reason to hope for success,” Rogozin said. The Finnish-owned Arctic Sea, which its owners said was carrying timber, set sail from Finland on July 23 headed for Algeria. The next day, the crew reported, about a dozen men boarded the ship near the Swedish island of Gotland, tied up the crew, beat them, said they were looking for drugs and then sped off in an inflatable craft.

Overdrive

BY WARREN BROWN
THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON—Rev. Frederick Eikenroetter, famously known as “Rev. Ike,” was anathema in our staunchly Roman Catholic New Orleans home.

To my parents, Daniel and Lillian Brown, the radio evangelist was a child of blasphemy, an enemy of all things good and true in the Catholic Church. But I listened anyway. How could I not? Rev. Ike, who died July 28 in Los Angeles, was a black man who preached the “gospel of success and prosperity” and bragged that he had so many cars, BMW and Rolls-Royce models among them, “my garage runneth over.”

The dude, God rest his soul, was a car nut like me.

I remembered Rev. Ike last week



THE WASHINGTON POST

The 2009 BMW 328i convertible, with its one-touch power retractable roof and luxury interior details, is showy enough to attract attention but without inspiring jealousy.

2009 BMW 328i CONVERTIBLE

Flashy ride makes case for earthly delights

while tooling about in a platinum bronze metallic 2009 BMW 328i convertible.

The good reverend would’ve liked that one with its hard-top, one-touch, power retractable roof and an interior done in saddle-brown and black Dakota leather with burl walnut accents. The car had the right amount of show—good enough to attract attention and inspire emulation without igniting the destructive fires of jealousy.

Hallelujah!

It mattered not to me that Rev. Ike was a despicable con artist, as my parents claimed, or a saint, as many of his followers believed. I always thought the man preached common sense—that there is, for example, a dramatic difference between showing up in Bethlehem on the back of a donkey or behind the wheel of a BMW, Cadillac or Rolls-Royce.

Rev. Ike said that arriving in some-

NUTS & BOLTS

BY WARREN BROWN
THE WASHINGTON POST

COMPLAINT

The 328i convertible’s body is getting a tad ho-hum. What we need here is a renewed dose of the styling genius of Christopher Edward Bangle, the BMW designer, now retired, who in the past 17 years gave us BMW automobiles worth looking at.

RIDE, ACCELERATION AND HANDLING

It beats all entry-level luxury automobiles—sedans, coupes, convertibles or wagons—in all three categories.

HEAD-TURNING QUOTIENT

It’s a BMW in conservative dress, but a BMW nonetheless.

BODY STYLE/LAYOUT

The BMW 328i convertible is a compact, entry-level

luxury, front-engine, rear-wheel drive, two-door, full four-seat car with an automatic, power-retractable hardtop roof.

ENGINE/TRANSMISSION

It is equipped with a 3-liter, inline six-cylinder, 24-valve engine that develops 230 horsepower at 6,500 revolutions per minute and 200 foot-pounds of torque at 2,750 revolutions per minute. The engine is linked to a six-speed manual transmission. A six-speed “Steptronic” transmission that can be shifted automatically or manually is available.

CAPACITIES

There are seats for four. Luggage capacity is 9 cubic feet. Fuel capacity is 16.1 gallons of required premium unleaded gasoline.

MILEAGE

You get 17 miles per gallon in the city and 27 miles per gallon on the highway—a cause for celebration for some people.

SAFETY

Standard equipment includes front and rear ventilated disc brakes, four-wheel antilock brakes, electronic stability and traction control, dual front air bags with head protection chambers, side air bags.

PRICE

The base price on the 2009 BMW 328i convertible with six-speed manual transmission is \$44,550. Dealer’s invoice price on that model is \$40,985. Price as tested is \$53,875, including \$8,500 in options (Dakota leather interior, 18-inch diameter wheels, iPod and MP3 player connectivity, premium exterior paint, electronic parking proximity warning system, and other items) and an \$875 destination charge. Dealer’s price as tested is \$49,550. Prices are sourced from BMW, Edmunds.com and Cars.com, an affiliate of The Washington Post.

PURSE-STRINGS NOTE

Only a BMW will satisfy people who want a BMW. Compare with Infiniti G37, Lexus IS 250, Mercedes-Benz CLK350 and Volvo C70

thing like a BMW would have made a better impression. And although I have no comparable experience with four-legged donkeys, I agree.

Consider, for example, my test-driving experiences of past weeks. Preceding the BMW 328i convertible were a series of economy cars—Hyundai Elantra Touring, Toyota Yaris, Nissan Versa—all wonderfully noble in their frugality and humility, but not a single one of which inspired public notice or comment, good or bad. Those cars were very un-Ike-like.

Rev. Ike said preachers can’t preach unless they first get attention. In that regard, he was short on miracles but long on cars. Everybody looked whenever Rev. Ike rolled up in one of his fancy rides. A lot of those people stayed around to listen, too.

Likewise was my experience in the

BMW 328i convertible. When I told people I got good mileage in a Toyota Yaris, they all yawned. But when I told them I got 27 miles per gallon on the highway in the rear-wheel-drive, inline six-cylinder 230-horsepower 328i convertible, they applauded! And, lo!

It mattered not that the thing required premium unleaded gasoline. Instead, numerous spectators marveled over the ballet-like performance of the 328i convertible’s automatically retractable hard top, urging me, “Do it again!” As Rev. Ike would say, they yearned for more “like manna from heaven.”

I will miss Rev. Ike, as I miss my parents. Here’s hoping that he and they find a quiet place to sit and talk in the afterlife and that, maybe, my Dad will learn that Rev. Ike wasn’t such an awful influence on a boy who loved cars.

Mich. cruisers worry days of classic cars are over

ROYAL OAK, Mich. (AP)—Jack Beller’s blue 1966 Corvette has the classic big-block engine and the enormous carburetor that make putting the keys in the ignition a roaring ode to muscle car history.

He and his classic ride have been coming to Saturday’s Woodward Dream Cruise, billed by its sponsors as “the world’s largest one-day celebration of car culture,” since it began 15 years ago. But this year, as he sat against his wife Marilyn’s arrest-me-red ‘62 Corvette, there was a depressing realization setting in: There may not be a successor to his beloved fleet of classic cars.

“This is gone,” said Beller, 68, sweeping his hand across a parking lot along the cruise’s Woodward Avenue route, where 100 other classic cars were lined up. “This is gone forever.”

In a year when General Motors and Chrysler have taken a quick trip through bankruptcy court and are being supported with taxpayer dollars, this cruise had participants feeling more nostalgic than ever about their vehicles. With GM now pushing cars like the whispery-quiet electric Volt, destined to get 230 mpg, the thundering, fuel-guzzling beasts that marked America’s love affair with the car are a dwindling breed, and a rare sight on the road.

As the industry turns toward more

fuel-efficient and even electric vehicles, classic car owners worry the soul of the cars that symbolized personal freedom, speed, status and sex appeal have been lost. In their place, the highways are filled with identical sedans that hum along, one just like the other, none more spectacular than the next.

For a day, though, Woodward Avenue was given over to the strutting cars of yesteryear. An estimated 40,000 Dream Cruisers slowly drove up and down the event’s 16-mile stretch in Detroit’s suburbs, classic big-body Cadillacs swimming by with a murmur. A fleet of hot rods, engines announcing their presence long before they came into view, roared out of red lights as patrons at local bars cheered, sipping beers mid-morning. And amid it all, a few strange gems like the original MonkeeMobile, from a goofy 1960s sitcom featuring the pop-rock quartet the Monkees, drew smiles from the hundreds of visitors sitting in folding chairs along the route.

As they cruised, the classic car enthusiasts discussed whether any contemporary vehicles will reach the iconic status of their trusty rides. Sadly, the drivers say, today’s cars just don’t measure up to the wonders of old—making the cruise a bittersweet journey back to the Motor City’s golden years.



George Lusk of St. Clair Shores, Mich., shows off his 1960 Chevy Impala during the annual Dream Cruise which spans a 16-mile stretch along Woodward Ave. on Saturday, Aug. 15, 2009 in Ferndale, Mich.

“They’re bellybutton cars—everybody’s got one,” said Bob Patrick, 74, of Warren while sitting next to his glossy red 1947 Plymouth Special Deluxe.

There are a lot of reasons the classic car culture may fade. While modern versions of muscle cars such as the Camaro and Corvette retain a good deal of their aesthetic appeal, the design concerns of the contemporary carmaker—including government safety regulations regarding

crash readiness and a car’s aerodynamic profile—can lead to visual similarity across models.

That makes “everything looks like a jellybean. Period,” Beller said.

It also makes identifying a future generation of classic cars difficult. While cars known as “tuners”—typically foreign model cars like whose mystique stems from souped-up engines and agile handling—are often

put forward as heirs to the classics throne, their skeptics abound.

“They’ll throw ‘em away and play with something else. There’s nothing out there today that anybody wants to save,” said Dave Sandow, 62, who was showing off his red 1970 Chevy El Camino.

Some who adore their conventionally classic car believe the definition of a classic is captured in childhood—and thus will continue to evolve generation to generation. So if a child looks out the window and sees a parade of fuel-efficient Toyota Prius models driving down the street, he may begin to consider that a “classic” when he gets older.

“The cool guys always had the cool cars and that’s what you try to emulate,” said Joe Ramsey, 58, of Sterling Heights, a former GM designer who owns a 1932 Ford. “It’s what you grew up with.”

There are some signs automakers aren’t giving up on the influence of classic cars completely. There has been some convergence between the classic car culture and a more modern, technological, tuner-influenced brand, said Richard Shi, an American cultural historian who has studied car culture. This union is on display with the Chevrolet Volt, GM’s electric vehicle slated to be released in 2010, which has a profile much closer to the Camaro than the comparatively mousey hybrid Toyota Prius.

Life & Style

Billionaire physicist buys rare objects to give away

By RUTH MCCANN
(C) 2009, THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON—In 2004, nuclear-physicist-cum-billionaire Peter Buck purchased one of the world's most fabulous rubies for an undisclosed sum and donated it to the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History in memory of Carmen Lucia Buck, his late wife.

Buck described the acquisition process, which began with Carmen's longtime jeweler, Frank Cappiello, whom Buck has known for the past quarter-century:

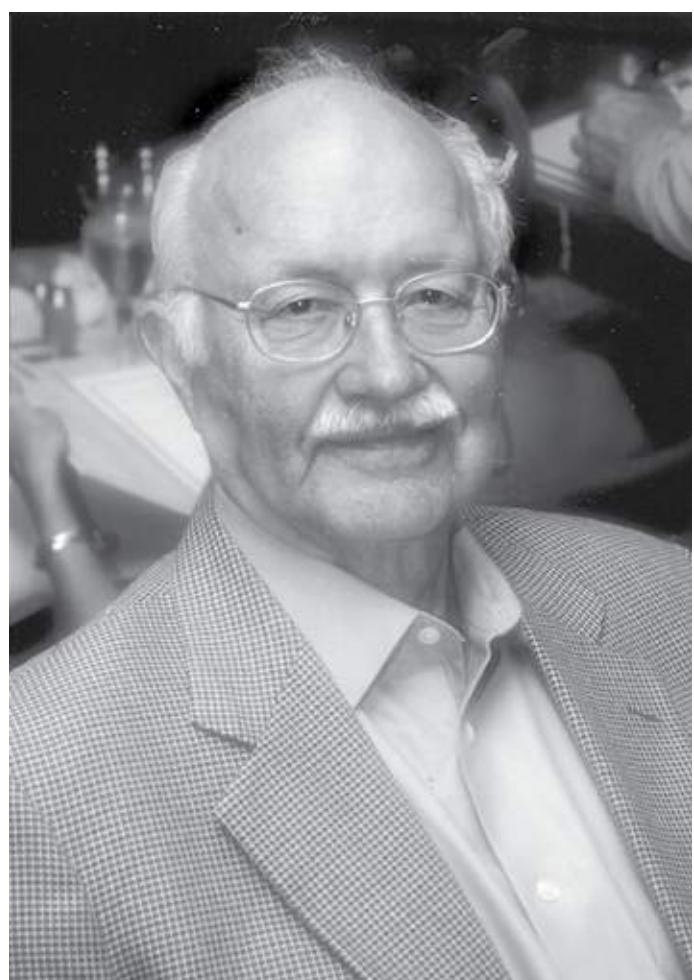
"To paraphrase, what Frank originally said was: 'Hey Pete! Got this great idea. What you do is, spend a lot of money and buy this ruby, and immediately give it away!'"

And Buck did just that.

Same with the 224-year-old George Washington letter that Buck, now 77, recently donated to the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History. The museum announced the acquisition on July 16 and plans to display it next year.

Again, it was Cappiello (who has expanded his purview to include rare manuscripts) who brought the letter to Buck's attention, suggesting the Smithsonian might be eager to clutch the historic missive to its stately bosom.

According to Smithsonian curator Harry Rubenstein, Washington himself had kept a copy of the letter in question, from which the recently unearthed original varies slightly. It provides stronger proof of Washington's conviction that the states ought to, as Washington writes, "Act as a Nation"—



PETER BUCK, WHO IN 1965 OPENED THE FIRST SUBWAY SANDWICH SHOP WITH FRED DELUCA, HAS A FORTUNE ESTIMATED BY FORBES MAGAZINE AT \$1.6 BILLION. HE HAS BEEN DONATING VALUABLE ITEMS TO THE SMITHSONIAN FOR FIVE YEARS.

valuable sentiments indeed, given that Washington aired them two years before the Constitutional Convention. The letter continues, "If we are afraid to trust one another under qualified powers there is an end to the Union."

Buck offered to buy the letter for the Smithsonian, saying the institution could have either that or the money for it. The Smithsonian opted for the letter, and

Buck coughed up a cool quarter-million for the document's purchase and care. Although for Buck, perhaps the cash wasn't so much coughed up as it was gently exhaled.

In 1965 Buck, who was then designing nuclear reactors for General Electric, had ponied up \$1,000 in 1965 to open the first Subway sandwich shop with friend Fred DeLuca. Subway has since exploded into a worldwide franchise (yes, you can get a Veggie Delite in Afghanistan), and Buck and DeLuca regularly appear on Forbes's roster of fabulously wealthy persons. In March, the magazine estimated Buck's worth at \$1.6 billion.

The Smithsonian-Buck relationship, now five years old, was originally orchestrated by Cappiello. When Smithsonian curator Jeff Post met Cappiello at a 2002 jewelry function, he mentioned that the Smithsonian wanted the ruby, Cappiello says. So two years later, when Buck and Cappiello discussed buying the stone in Carmen's memory, Cappiello knew exactly where it would find a welcoming home.

After Buck donated the gem, now dubbed the Carmen Lucia Ruby, he was invited to join

the Natural History Museum's board. And the relationship continues, as so many long-distance affairs do, with the help of gifts and visits—Buck travels to Washington twice yearly from his home in Danbury, Conn., to attend board meetings and take a peek at the galleries.

One of his first stops, of course, is always the Minerals and Gem Gallery, where the Carmen Lucia Ruby—a gleaming Burmese stone the size of a large throat lozenge, set with two diamonds in a platinum ring—is displayed behind glass, within sight of the Hope Diamond.

Carmen had seen a picture of the ring in autumn 2002, on Cappiello's desk. Later that day, Carmen learned that her prognosis looked bad. She ultimately died of cancer in March 2003.

"She was," Cappiello says, "a wonderful person."

Speaking by phone from his home, Buck says he enjoys eavesdropping as visitors pass by the gem.

"I remember," Buck says, "hearing one comment from a young lady: 'Huh. The guy goes and gives it to a museum. He could've given it to me!'"

And now the guy goes and

The letter Buck purchased was sent in 1785 from Washington to Stuart, a regular correspondent and stepfather to Washington's grandchildren. It was kept by the Stuart family until recently, when it was sold to a dealer, who sold it to Cappiello, who sold it to Buck. Though he saw a copy before buying it, Buck still hasn't seen the letter in person.

Buck admits that, before purchasing the letter, he had "no previous interest in Washington artifacts in particular," though he does, in all seriousness, appreciate the letter's illuminating implications regarding the Commerce Clause.

As the subject of donation is touched upon, Buck says: "Just don't say anything like, 'And this is Dr. Buck's way of giving back.' I never stole anything! So I'm not giving anything back!"

This amused-from-a-distance perspective on philanthropy and wealth seems to come naturally to Buck, who has lived in the same house for 17 years and has a 13-year-old car in his driveway. (Though the Village People did perform at his 70th birthday party.)

Because of health issues,



PETER BUCK'S LATEST SMITHSONIAN DONATION IS A 1785 LETTER FROM GEORGE WASHINGTON TO A FRIEND. THE BILLIONAIRE NUCLEAR PHYSICIST PAID \$250,000 FOR THE LETTER'S PURCHASE AND CARE.

gives a George Washington letter to a museum.

"I wish someone would give us something like that," says Jim Rees, executive director of George Washington's Mount Vernon estate. "There's a great signature at the end."

Washington was a prolific correspondent who penned about 25,000 letters during his lifetime, Rees says, and trade in his letters is still bustling, with 30 or 40 letters changing hands annually.

William Reese, a New Haven, Conn., dealer in American rare books and manuscripts, says that sales records show a wide range in prices for Washington letters written to David Stuart, from \$10,000 (in 1996) to \$155,000 (in 1993), though content and condition largely determine a letter's value.

Washington, he's currently unable to travel or pursue his erstwhile hobbies (flying glider planes, scuba diving and bowling) but hopes to visit Washington for the next board meeting at the Museum of Natural History. Each winter, Buck visits Carmen's extended family in Brazil with his second son, William, who lives in New York. Christopher, his older son, lives nearby in Danbury.

At the moment, Buck is occupied by—among other things—paging through Linus Pauling's "Introduction to Quantum Mechanics With Applications to Chemistry."

"You wanna get to sleep at night? Oh my God ... you can't go more than half a page before you're so completely bewildered you just give up and



THE WASHINGTON POST
IN 2004, NUCLEAR PHYSICIST PETER BUCK PURCHASED ONE OF THE WORLD'S MOST FABULOUS RUBIES FOR AN UNDISCLOSED SUM AND DONATED IT TO THE SMITHSONIAN'S NATIONAL MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY IN MEMORY OF CARMEN LUCIA BUCK, HIS LATE WIFE.

Success via sandwich

By RUTH MCCANN
(C) 2009, THE WASHINGTON POST

Peter Buck's career began with a PhD in physics and a job designing nuclear reactors for the Navy. But in 1965, after moving to Connecticut to work for General Electric, Buck was approached by a family friend. Fred DeLuca, then 17, wanted to learn how he could earn money for college.

"As Fred says," Buck recalls, "Pete was the only guy I knew that had a real job. So I figured he'd pull out a big roll of money and peel some bills off ... but no!"

Instead, Buck thought of Amato's, the Italian sandwich shop he and his father had visited every Sunday evening during Buck's childhood, when he earned 20 cents an hour working on his father's farm in Portland, Maine.

"I was impressed by the ladies operating" Amato's, Buck says. "They wore diamond necklaces and diamond earrings. ... I said, 'Let's open a submarine sandwich store!' And, not having any better offer that day, Fred says: 'Eh! OK! Let's do it.'

The two drove to Maine, where they bought an Amato's sandwich and dissected it in the car. They then drove around to every sandwich store they could find and did the same. Within two weeks, their first store was up and running. They continued to open store after store, but it was 15 years, Buck says, before they broke even. Even after that, Subway grew at a rate so modest that Buck didn't quit his job until the early 1980s.

"As our former accountant said, 'You guys were too dumb to stop!'" Buck says.

After DeLuca suggested franchising, the company took off, skyrocketing into ubiquity with the whole Jared saga, etc. Buck says he still eats at Subway: tuna salad on Italian.

fall asleep," Buck says. But the minute he thinks about taking that knowledge in, he says: "It's so incredibly difficult. Who am I going to discuss it with?"

A net worth like Buck's often serves to isolate, to rarefy and eccentricify. But in Buck's conversation (he has an unmistakable Maine accent and a penchant for free indirect discourse), there's little hint of isolated anything. He ingests Linus Pauling and immediately wonders whether he can parlay cogitation into conversation. The knowledge is—like the ruby, like the letter—no sooner taken in than simply given away again.



In New Mexico, a storm underscores the title of Walter de Maria's "The Lightning Field," a grid of 400 stainless steel lightning rods that dot a desert plateau.

THE WASHINGTON POST

QUEMADO, N.M.—Only six people are allowed to see it every day, and only for six months of the year.

It's thousands of miles from the big art scenes on either coast, and hours from the nearest city.

Photos are not allowed, so it barely even circulates in pictures.

There's even a tiny chance that, if you don't follow instructions, it could help you wind up dead.

And yet, for many of the few who've made the pilgrimage, it turns out to be "one of the great works of art of the last century."

That was the judgment of one art-historian friend, not usually prone to hyperbole, when he returned from a summer visit to "The Lightning Field," a huge work of "land art" hidden in the middle of New Mexico. His rave got me to go.

A classic patch of sagebrush-covered land, set on an empty plateau 7,200 feet high. A ring of jagged mountains at its edges, out-clique-ing any Hollywood western. And in the middle, 400 lightning rods, custom-made from stainless steel and laid out in a grid that stretches a mile in one direction and a kilometer in the other. Set 220 feet apart, the rods tower to several times the height of a tall man; whatever kind of mound or furrow they get planted in, their tops all reach to the same table-flat height.

The work was built in 1977 by a New Yorker named Walter de Maria, then 42, who got his patrons at the Dia Art Foundation to buy the land and commission its conversion into art. De Maria and his work are famous in the art world. What seems strange, once you've visited his masterwork, is how they could be so little-known outside of it.

"Lightning Field" kept me looking and thinking for longer than I've ever spent with any other work of art, at least all in one stretch. I wandered the site nonstop from afternoon to night of one long summer's day, and then from before dawn to almost noon the next.

I lucked out. There were evening thunderstorms the first day I went, and the mountains all around were bright with lightning, although no strikes hit the rods while I was looking—you're not supposed to be out among them,

schedule. (The site is open daily May through October; booking, which starts in March, is by mail only.)

Your overnight visit will cost you \$250—nonrefundable—which can be paid only by check to Dia, which still owns and tends the work. If that sounds like a lot of money, note that food and lodging are included and that a bad hotel in New York could cost you more than that.

From the Albuquerque airport, you have a three-hour drive ahead of you,

Maria's version of its future.

Thought 2: The future seen in "Lightning Field" is truly "futuristic." Look at the rods, with the landscape as backdrop, and you could swear they're a Hollywood special effect. Those crisp poles, with their slick reflections, hard shadows and regular grid, are just the kind of thing most easily rendered in CGI; stand among them, and it feels as if you've been green-screened in. Back in the 1970s, "Lightning Field" already predicted how the 21st cen-

Or, this is art that sets itself apart from anything that's ever been made.

"Lightning Field" is about framing the landscape, so you understand it better and differently. Or, it's the classic man-made denial of nature, using geometry to cancel out irregularity.

"Lightning Field" is brutal, all about the threat of death and nature's heedless wrath. Or, it's as humane as any masterpiece could be, out to fill whatever uses we can put it to.

It's clear the experience is about as great and powerful as anything could be, but does that alone makes "Lightning Field" an absolutely crucial work of art?

The very greatest works, such as the best pictures of Titian, Manet, Cézanne or Picasso, leave you puzzled, and even risk repelling you. Just as you think you've "got" what they're about, you're left feeling that you've somehow missed the point, or that you're simply dumber than they are.

That's almost the opposite of what happens with "Lightning Field": As you bounce from reading to reading, you feel each time that you've got the piece just right and all tied up, before you move on to the next instant of opposite but equal certitude.

This feels like what can happen when you're looking at nature. A great sunset may trigger thoughts of everything from the vastness of the universe to the brevity of human life, but we don't really credit the sunset itself for the ideas and feelings we have. We own sunsets, and deep inside we take credit for their smarts.

Maybe that means that the almost-natural experience of "Lightning Field," however rare and wonderful it is, risks leaving us feeling too fine and wise for our own good.

'Lightning Field' encompasses a vast New Mexican vista

By BLAKE GOPNIK

(C) 2009, THE WASHINGTON POST

anyway, when a storm's right overhead. (De Maria chose the area partly for its electrical storms, which occur on something like 60 days annually.)

The piece looks great by storm light, when it's likely to give as many goose bumps as the Sistine ceiling. But the best thing about "Lightning Field" is that it seems to work at least as well by any other kind of light, at almost any moment that you come across it.

There is no single "Lightning Field"—that name's the one false note in the whole piece. Every time you look at it, this work feels new and acquires meanings you hadn't thought of earlier.

Its central virtue may be that, unlike almost any other artwork you could name, it doesn't *have* a single central virtue.

It's good that "Lightning Field" provides so much to see, because getting to see it is a chore. You'd better book months in advance if you want to visit on a day that fits your

south and west to the tiny town of Que-mado (population 324), where you need to be by 2:30 p.m. That's when Dia caretakers pile visitors—never more than six at a time, by order of the artist—into a muddy 4-by-4 for an hour's winding drive across rural roads. Eventually, you're dropped off at a vintage log cabin, the site's original home-stead, that's even more John Wayne than the landscape around it. You'll be driven out the next morning at 11.

You drop your bags, walk out the back door, and you're (*ital*) in (*end ital*) a work of art, as you've never been before. Ideas pile up.

Thought 1: The long trip was necessary. De Maria's piece is clearly about the West, so it's only right that there should be some kind of trek to get you to your destination. That's why the log cabin also feels so right. If you stand in the no man's land between the cabin and the field of rods, you can go from looking "back" at the homestead and the region's past, and "forward" to de

tury would construct a vision of future worlds still further off.

Thought 3: Or this could be absolutely now, anywhere that surveyors grid-up open land for subdivisions.

Thought 4: Who said modern art killed classic beauty? The sun starts setting, God's clouds and de Maria's rods are lit deep-pink, and the Romantic Sublime takes over. Turner, eat your heart out.

Thought 5: Art doesn't get more minimal and rigorous than this. With the sun behind a cloud, the rods become a never-ending grid of identical gray lines. For a moment, aesthetics disappear and there's no room for arty histrionics. All that matters is the statement of a concept: a ground plane. A line rising from it. A space. Another line. Repeat.

Thoughts 6 through 99, and on: With its endlessly receding avenues of rods, "Lightning Field" is the latest riff on classic Renaissance perspective (try Googling "isocephaly").

'District 9' lifts off with No. 1 weekend at \$37M

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The first-time director and cast of unknowns of the acclaimed sci-fi thriller "District 9" have given Hollywood a late-summer box-office boost.

The Sony release produced by "Lord of the Rings" director Peter Jackson led the weekend with a \$37 million debut, according to studio estimates Sunday.

"District 9" is the debut feature from commercial and music-video director Neill Blomkamp, who co-wrote the tale about extraterrestrials forced by humans to live in squalor in a ghetto in South Africa.

The movie built audience interest with a clever marketing campaign playing up the theme of prejudice against aliens, including posters instructing citizens to report non-humans and ads on bus benches stating that

the seats are for humans only.

"Everybody was like, 'What is this?' There was a big question mark in people's minds," said Rory Bruer, head of distribution for Sony. "It did really pique their interest and drove them to the Internet and elsewhere to discover what's going on."

The previous weekend's No. 1 movie, Paramount's "G.I. Joe: The Rise of Cobra," slipped to second place with \$22.5 million, raising its 10-day total to \$98.8 million.

Another sci-fi tale, the Warner Bros. romance "The Time Traveler's Wife" starring Eric Bana and Rachel McAdams, opened a solid No. 3 with \$19.2 million. The film joined the previous weekend's "Julie & Julia" as a choice for women, with females accounting for 76 percent of its audience.



This movie still released by Sony Pictures shows, left to right, Sharlto Copley, Mandla Gaduka and Kenneth Nkosi in "District 9."

"District 9" and "Time Traveler's Wife" led a wave of five

new wide releases for mid-August, when Hollywood's summer output normally is petering out. The rush continues next weekend with another surge of new releases, led by Quentin Tarantino's World War II saga "Inglourious Basterds."

"It's getting very crowded, and it's these films that want to compete in the summer time frame but can't compete in the sweet spot of summer," said Paul Dergarabedian, box-office analyst for Hollywood.com. "Opening 'District 9' against 'Star Trek,' that would not be a good strategy. But to release it now makes sense. August is the month of opportunity for films that in other months of summer would get slaughtered."

The weekend's other debuts: Paramount Vantage's used-car

1. "District 9" \$37 million.
2. "G.I. Joe: The Rise of Cobra," \$22.5 million.
3. "The Time Traveler's Wife," \$19.2 million.
4. "Julie & Julia," \$12.4 million.
5. "G-Force," \$6.9 million.
6. "The Goods: Live Hard, Sell Hard," \$5.4 million.
7. "Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince," \$5.2 million.
8. "The Ugly Truth," \$4.5 million.
9. "Ponyo," \$3.5 million.
10. "500 Days of Summer," \$3 million.

comedy "The Goods: Live Hard, Sell Hard," opening at No. 6 with \$5.4 million; Disney's animated adventure "Ponyo" from animation master Hayao Miyazaki ("Spirited Away"), coming in at No. 9 with \$3.5 million; and

Summit Entertainment's teen rock 'n' roll tale "Bandslam," which tanked at No. 13 with just \$2.3 million despite a cast that includes Vanessa Hudgens of "High School Musical."

It was Hollywood's second weekend in a row of rising revenues after a monthlong slide compared with summer 2008, when the Batman blockbuster "The Dark Knight" was smashing box-office records.

Overall receipts came in at \$142 million, up 14 percent from the same weekend a year ago, when "Tropic Thunder" debuted at No. 1 with \$25.8 million.

Revenues since the summer season opened the first weekend of May are at \$3.77 billion, just a fraction below where Hollywood was last summer, according to Hollywood.com.

Factoring in higher ticket prices, admissions are off 4 percent compared to summer 2008, though movie attendance remains strong given how "The Dark Knight" dominated a year ago. The biggest blockbuster since "Titanic," "The Dark Knight" topped out with a domestic haul of \$531 million.

"Considering we had a movie of that magnitude in the mix, I think this summer has held up very well for itself," said Dan Fellman, head of distribution for Warner Bros., which released "The Dark Knight."

Estimated ticket sales are for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Hollywood.com. Final figures will be released Monday.

With Obama in office, Fox News finds its stride

NEW YORK (AP)—South Carolina Republican Bob Inglis, frustrated by a restive crowd at a recent forum to discuss health care reform, suggested people turn off the TV when Fox News Channel's Glenn Beck came on.

Big mistake.

Judging by the escalating boos and catcalls, squirting lighter fluid on burning coals would have been wiser. Beck is a hero to many people who are not buying the Age of Obama, and so is Fox. The network was already on pace for its best ratings year even before the health care debate sent viewership jumping during a traditionally slow month for news.

How emboldened is Fox? After President Barack Obama's press secretary Robert Gibbs warned against "cable news" derailing health care plans, Bill O'Reilly assumed he was referring to Fox and seemed ready for a fight.

"Who's that going to help?" O'Reilly said. "Us, that's who. Our ratings are already soaring because we don't denigrate the protesters, the way a lot of other TV news organizations do. They're dying. We're on fire."

Fox's strong year hasn't come without controversy. Some critics worry about overheated rhetoric—Beck has called Obama a



In this Oct. 27, 2008 file photo, FOX TV show host Bill O'Reilly arrives for a taping of the "Late Show with David Letterman," in New York.

racist and joked about poisoning House Speaker Nancy Pelosi—and suggest Fox has helped lead, instead of just follow, the president's opponents.

Fox's viewership is up 11 percent over last year, according to Nielsen Media Research. CNN and MSNBC, which benefited from interest in the campaign last year, are down.

O'Reilly, who already had cable news' most popular show, Beck and Sean Hannity lead the way.

The ratings expose as naive anyone who believed that the dawn of a Democratic gov-

ernment in Washington would hurt Fox.

"Fox is much more firmly established than it has ever been," said Eric Burns, former host of Fox's "News Watch" media criticism show. "It has been in existence for 13 years. It knows its base. And it knows its base is bigger than CNN or MSNBC."

Since Fox is already the network of choice for conservatives, the ratings indicate it must be drawing in more moderates and even liberals, said Bernard Goldberg, best-selling author of "A Slobbering Love Affair: The True (and Pathetic) Story of the Torrid Romance Between Barack Obama and the Mainstream Media" and other books that criticize liberal media bias. The poor economy and the administration's ambitious agenda have made people anxious and searching for a media outlet that understands them, he said.

Roughly three times as many Republicans said in a June survey that they regularly get news from Fox, as opposed to CNN or MSNBC, reported the Pew Research Center. The three networks had about the same number of independent followers, and Fox had more Democratic followers than CNN and MSNBC had GOP fans.

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NOW SHOWING

District 9

Synopsis

Thirty years ago, aliens made first contact with Earth. Humans waited for the hostile attack, or the giant advances in technology. Neither came. Instead, the aliens were refugees, the last survivors of their home world. The creatures were set up in a makeshift home in South Africa's District 9 as the world's nations argued over what to do with them. Now, patience over the alien situation has run out. Control over the aliens has been contracted out to Multi-National United, a private company uninterested in the aliens' welfare—they will receive tremendous profits if they can make the aliens' awesome weaponry work.

The Time Traveler's Wife

Synopsis

Clare has been in love with Henry her entire life. She believes they are destined to be together, even though she never knows when they will be separated: Henry is a time traveler—cursed with a rare genetic anomaly that causes him to live his life on a shifting timeline, skipping back and forth through his lifespan with no control. Despite the fact that Henry's travels force them apart with no warning, Clare desperately tries to build a life with her one true love.

G.I. JOE

Synopsis

From the Egyptian desert to deep below the polar ice caps, the elite G.I. Joe team uses the latest in next-generation spy and military equipment to fight the corrupt arms dealer Destro and the growing threat of the mysterious Cobra organization to prevent them from plunging the world into chaos.

G-Force

Synopsis

Friday 4:15 7:30 9:45 Saturday 1:15 4:15 7:30 Sunday 1:15 4:15 7:30 Mon. thru Thurs. 4:15 7:30

Thomas Haden Church, Carter Jenkins
Adventure, Family • Rated PG

Aliens in the Attic

Synopsis

Friday 4:25 7:20 9:30 Saturday 1:30 4:25 7:20 9:30 Sunday 1:30 4:25 7:20 Mon. thru Thurs. 4:25 7:20

Steve Zahn, Milla Jovovich
Thriller • Rated R

Harry Potter and The Half Blood Prince

Synopsis

Friday 4:00 7:00 10:00 Saturday 1:00 4:00 7:00 10:00 Sunday 1:00 4:00 7:00 Mon. thru Thurs. 4:00 7:00

Daniel Radcliffe, Emma Watson
Fantasy, Adventure, Sequel • Rated PG-13

★ ★ ★

★ ★ ★

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Kiss to release new album at Wal-Mart, Sam's Club

NEW YORK (AP)—Wal-Mart is being embraced with a Kiss.

The veteran heavy metal group, Kiss, is joining a growing list of classic acts putting out new music through the world's largest retailer.

"Sonic Boom" is due to be released only at Wal-Mart and Sam's Club stores on Oct. 6. The three-disc package will include a CD of the band's first new music in 11 years, re-recorded versions of famous Kiss hits and a live DVD.

Paul Stanley—one of the quartet's two original members, along with Gene Simmons—said the band chose to release the album at Wal-Mart because the store allowed them to make it memorable.

"They offered us an opportunity to do something that's very much in line with what we used to do with our classic albums, and that's to give people more than just an album of music," Stanley said in an interview last week. "We've always believed in trying to make an album a special event."

Large store chains have become a favorite venue for classic acts to reintroduce themselves with new material. Wal-Mart has sold millions with releases by the Eagles, AC/DC and other key acts. It also has a Foreigner three-disc package due out in September. Target released a three-disc set from Prince ear-



In this Tuesday, July 20, 2004 file photo, the rock band Kiss, from left, Gene Simmons, Tommy Thayer and Paul Stanley perform during their performance at the PNC Bank Arts Center in Holmdel, N.J.

'Everyday heroes' inspire, enrich the lives they touch

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: I am a casual reader of your column and saw the June 15 letter from "Lucky Wife of a Hero." What a refreshing piece it was to read. I know many people write to you with hardships in their lives, but that letter was one of the most uplifting I have read in a long time. It literally made my day.

While "Lucky Wife's" husband's help to her may seem surprisingly simple, it's great to hear about people doing the little things for those they love, and being appreciated in return. Thank you for publishing it.



Dear Abby

U.S. MARINE IN JAPAN

DEAR U.S. MARINE: And thank you for writing. In my response to "Lucky Wife" I asked readers to share their stories of people they have encountered who—like the husband in that letter—are "everyday heroes." Read on for a sample:

■ ■ ■
DEAR ABBY: My life has been touched by several heroes. I became pregnant during my senior year in high school. Because marriage wasn't an option, I placed my son for adoption. In college, I met my husband, and we have raised three children together.

After 35 years my son, Paul, contacted me. The first hero who stepped up was my husband. Without hesitation, he welcomed Paul into our family.

My next hero was Paul's wife, who offered to share her husband during the holidays. Paul flew from Minnesota to California on Christmas Day to meet me and my family. It was an incredible experience.

It was then that I learned about the two heroes who had taken Paul into their home and their hearts all those years ago and raised him as their own. Paul's adoptive family encouraged him to find us, learn about his birth heritage, and have celebrated every moment of our reunion.

But the greatest hero in my story is Paul. Inspired by the sacrifices of the young men and women who serve our country, he felt compelled to join the Army National Guard and today is serving in Iraq.

Soon my family will travel to Minnesota to meet Paul's adoptive parents and siblings, his wife and his children. My heroes have joined together to enrich my life, and I can't begin to thank each and every one of them.

SHERI IN ESCONDIDO, CALIF.

■ ■ ■
DEAR ABBY: I haven't seen my "everyday hero" since I was 12, but the way she treated me has made a huge difference in my life.

Annie was a middle-aged woman working for an aeronautics company who gave me my first job when I was 10. She taught me to plant seeds and keep the garden weeded, to stack wood, paint and mow. I felt proud being able to earn my own money. Even more important, Annie gave me a safe place to go, an adult I could talk to and the conviction that if you work hard enough you'll be rewarded.

I'm almost 30 now, but I have never forgotten that wonderful woman and what she did for me, and I never will.

ANDI IN TACOMA

■ ■ ■
DEAR ABBY: When my daughter Mindy was in high school she dated Rob, a young man who adored her. While she dated others, he waited patiently until she returned to him. They married after college and had three children.

Mindy destroyed the marriage, and I told her at the time that she had rocks for brains. Their divorce was amicable. Rob attended all holiday and birthday gatherings. Neither one remarried.

My daughter was "Miss Independent." She excelled at her job and didn't need anyone because she could do it all herself. More than 10 years passed.

Then, on vacation, Mindy was in a terrible accident that left her a quadriplegic. Suddenly she had to depend on someone else for everything, and Rob was right there. His attitude was, "She FINALLY needs me."

For five years, he has assumed complete care for Mindy in addition to holding down a full-time job. She has greatly improved, can drive a specially equipped van and is back at her job. My daughter would be lost without the man who loves her, and she knows it. I thank God for him every day of my life.

GRATEFUL MOTHER-IN-LAW

Police respond to Jon & Kate's house for argument

SINKING SPRING, Pa. (AP)—Police in eastern Pennsylvania say they responded to an argument at the home of Jon and Kate Gosselin (GAHS'-lihn), stars of the TLC show "Jon & Kate Plus 8."

Lower Heidelberg police say they calmed the situation down

after going to the home at 7:05 p.m. Thursday. There were no arrests or citations. Police did not say who was involved in the incident or cite the reason for the argument.

The TLC show is back on the air after a hiatus following the Gosselins' breakup in June.

New episodes document the Gosselins "separately parenting" their eight children.

The home is about 50 miles northwest of Philadelphia.

A TLC spokeswoman declined comment when contacted by The Associated Press on Friday.

Actor's US 'detention' prompts outrage in India



Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan's fans hold his posters, shout anti-American slogans and burn the American flag during a protest in Allahabad, India, Sunday, Aug. 16, 2009.

NEW DELHI (AP)—Angry fans burned a U.S. flag in protest Sunday, a Cabinet minister suggested searching visiting Americans and an actress tweeted her outrage after Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan said he was detained for questioning at a U.S. airport.

Though U.S. immigration officials denied he was formally held, fellow Indian film stars and political leaders condemned what they called "humiliating" treatment given to Khan, a Muslim who is well-loved in a largely Hindu country. One Cabinet minister suggested a "tit-for-tat" policy toward Americans traveling to India.

Angry fans in the northern city of Allahabad shouted anti-U.S. slogans and burned an American flag.

Khan said he was detained Friday by U.S. immigration officials at Newark Liberty International Airport in New Jersey because his name came up on a computer alert list.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write *Dear Abby* at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

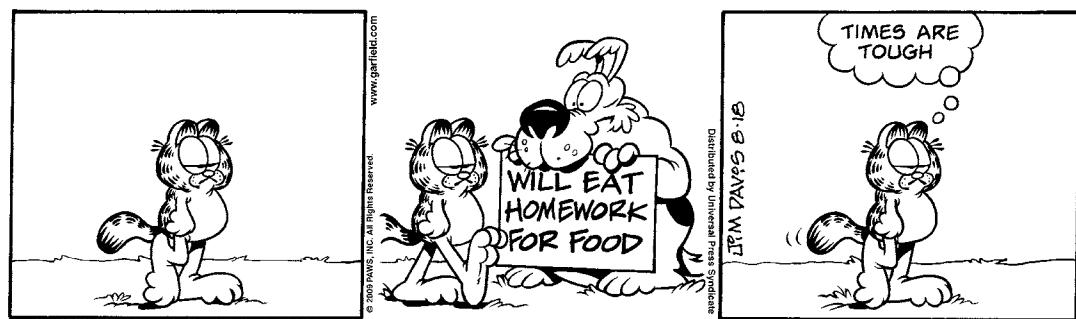
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes



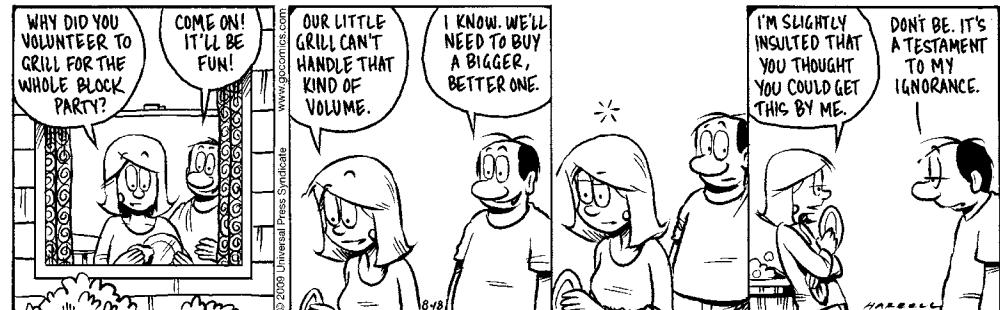
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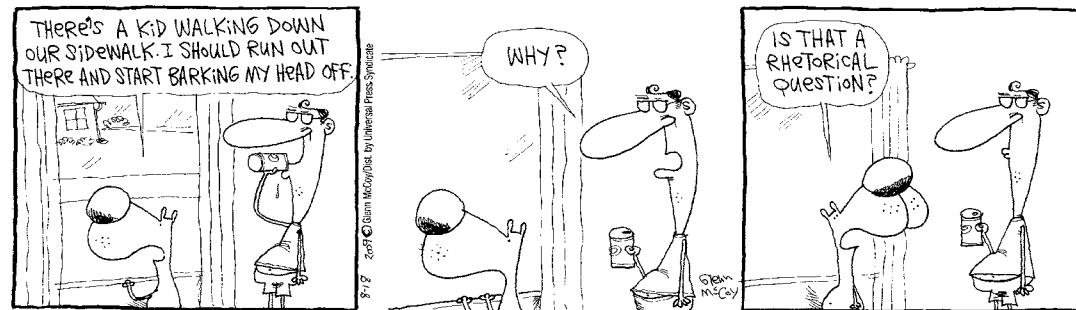
By Jim Davis

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The Duplex



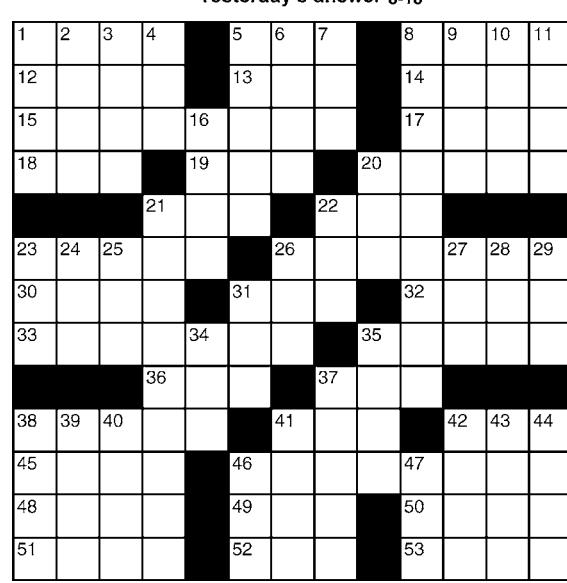
By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS														
1	Apply	33	Gave	52	Tavern	11	Flag maker	53	Wanders	16	Withdraw	20	Parton's	LEO
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Hancock	eater	36	Nevertheless	1 Undo a	20	Satchel	21	park	24	Method	25	Nonprofes-	sional	
5	Pharm.	37	Disen-	dele	21	Parton's	22	land	24	Perfor-	25	Nonprofes-	onal	
watchdog	map abbr.	38	cumber	Ahmadinejad's	22	Method	23	land	24	mances	26	Perfor-	onal	
8	Cold	39	Perfor-	nejad's	23	Nonprofes-	23	land	24	map abbr.	27	Perfor-	onal	
War-era	37	Disen-	38	land	24	Nonprofes-	23	land	24	abrv.	28	Perfor-	onal	
12	Verifiable	40	Perfor-	rush	25	Nonprofes-	23	land	24	abrv.	29	Perfor-	onal	
13	Actor	41	Perfor-	of wind	26	Nonprofes-	23	land	24	abrv.	30	Perfor-	onal	
Voight	Voight	42	Perfor-	item	27	Zsa Zsa's	23	land	24	abrv.	31	Perfor-	onal	
14	Conten-	43	Perfor-	Johnson	28	Moray,	23	land	24	abrv.	32	Perfor-	onal	
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15	"Gran	45	Perfor-	42 Windy	30	Modern-	23	land	24	abrv.	34	Perfor-	onal	
Torino"	star	46	Perfor-	City abrv.	31	day	23	land	24	abrv.	35	Perfor-	onal	
star	portation	47	Perfor-	transpor-	32	evidence	23	land	24	abrv.	36	Perfor-	onal	
17	Prepares	48	Perfor-	transpor-	33	lustrous	23	land	24	abrv.	37	Perfor-	onal	
Easter	Easter	49	Perfor-	transpor-	34	black	23	land	24	abrv.	38	Perfor-	onal	
eggs	eggs	50	Perfor-	transpor-	35	Moines	23	land	24	abrv.	39	Perfor-	onal	
18	Potent	51	Perfor-	transpor-	36	Monarch	23	land	24	abrv.	40	Perfor-	onal	
stick	stick	52	Perfor-	transpor-	37	Speeder	23	land	24	abrv.	41	Perfor-	onal	
19	Mess up	53	Perfor-	transpor-	38	spotter	23	land	24	abrv.	42	Perfor-	onal	
20	Abacus	54	Perfor-	transpor-	39	unkempt	23	land	24	abrv.	43	Perfor-	onal	
components	components	55	Perfor-	transpor-	40	one	23	land	24	abrv.	44	Perfor-	onal	
21	Father	56	Perfor-	transpor-	41	Take on	23	land	24	abrv.	45	Perfor-	onal	
22	Peace-	57	Perfor-	transpor-	42	Portent	23	land	24	abrv.	46	Perfor-	onal	
nik's	worry	58	Perfor-	transpor-	43	41 Aloe —	23	land	24	abrv.	47	Perfor-	onal	
23	Access a	59	Perfor-	transpor-	44	42 Last few	23	land	24	abrv.	48	Perfor-	onal	
chat room		60	Perfor-	transpor-	45	notes	23	land	24	abrv.	49	Perfor-	onal	
26	Allergy	61	Perfor-	transpor-	46	43 Retain	23	land	24	abrv.	50	Perfor-	onal	
inducer		62	Perfor-	transpor-	47	44 Midmonth	23	land	24	abrv.	51	Perfor-	onal	
30	First	63	Perfor-	transpor-	48	date	23	land	24	abrv.	52	Perfor-	onal	
victim		64	Perfor-	transpor-	49	Symbol of	23	land	24	abrv.	53	Perfor-	onal	
31	Behar of	65	Perfor-	transpor-	50	intrigue	23	land	24	abrv.	54	Perfor-	onal	
"The View"		66	Perfor-	transpor-	51	47 Peruke	23	land	24	abrv.	55	Perfor-	onal	
32	It takes	67	Perfor-	transpor-	52	Yesterday's answer 8-18	23	land	24	abrv.	56	Perfor-	onal	
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Yesterday's answer 8-18



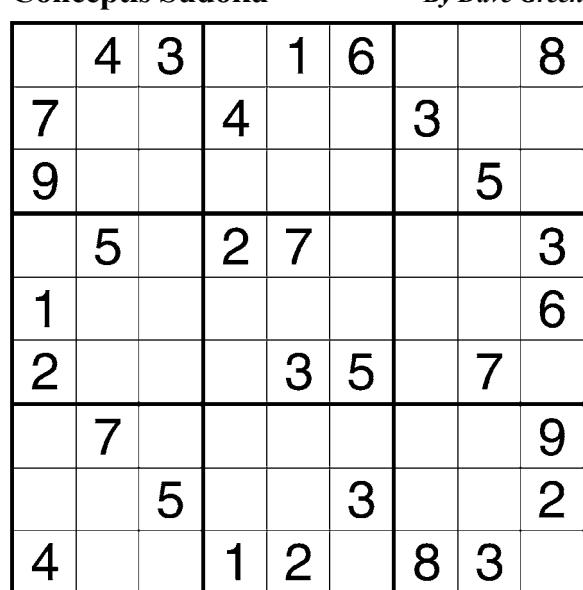
For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5951 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

STUMPED?

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



Difficulty Level ★★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

2	3	1	4	7	8	6	9	5
8	6	7	5	9	1	3	4	2
4	5	9	3	2	6	8	7	1
9	1	5	2	6	3	4	8	7
6	4	8	7	1	5	9	2	3
3	7	2	9	8	4	5	1	6
1	8	4	6	3	7	2	5	9
7	9	3	8	5	2	1	6	4
5	2	6	1	4	9	7	3	8

Difficulty Level ★

8/18

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

MOBILE, ALABAMA

Solution: 10 letters

D I F H C A T H E D R A L C M
R E T U T R E G N E A S A I A
W A L N A E E B M C W P N S S
E A D T O K L T O Y I E H A Q
S T R E A C N L A T S I R N U
S O I R C S O I A W P T T K E
H O U S E N R L E B Z R I E R
E N T T I N A E U L E I T C A
P S A A H V P I I T S A O C D
A E L G I E L E H R T T H N E
R N L N R D R G S S R U O D L
D I R S I O I N U L N A E N O
S A H N I E M S L L A B B A E
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pro se

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

In Re The Matter Of) FCD GU
The Petition To) CIVIL
Appoint General) ACTION
Guardianship For:) NO. 09-471(R)
)
Henry S. Atalig Jr.)
Minor Child) NOTICE
By:) OF
Petitioners) HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on August 28, 2009 at 10:30 a.m. in Courtroom Rota, before Associate Judge Perry B. Inos.

Dated this 11th day of August, 2009.

Bernadita A. Sablan
Clerk of Court

/s/ By: Deputy Clerk of Court

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235- NEWS

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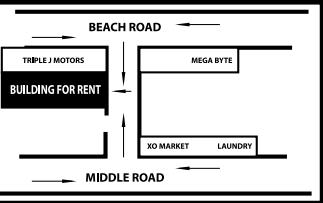
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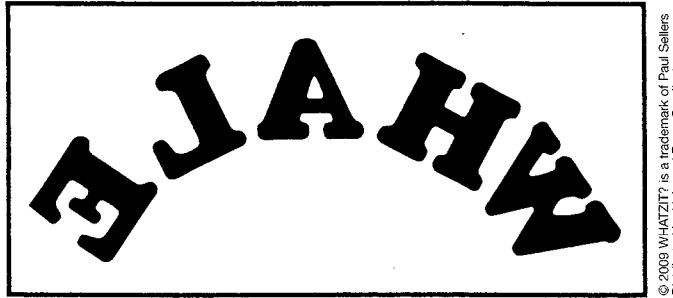
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Attorney for Bank of Guam

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

BANK OF GUAM,) Small Claims
) No. 09-0323
Plaintiff,)
vs.) AMENDED
TEOFILO S. SALVANI,) SUMMONS
Defendant.)

TO: THE ABOVE-NAMED
DEFENDANT TEOFILO S. SALVANI

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED TO
APPEAR by the 21st day after the fourth date
of publication of this AMENDED SUMMONS
and defend the above entitled action in the
CNMI SUPERIOR COURT, at the Office of
Clerk of Court, CNMI SUPERIOR COURT,
1st Floor, Guma' Hustisia, Iimwal Aweewe,
House of Justice, Susupe Village, P.O. Box
500307, Saipan MP 96950-0307; and answer
the complaint of the plaintiff Bank of Guam,
and serve a copy of your answer upon Robert
Tenorio Torres, attorney for Plaintiff Bank of
Guam, at Plata Drive, Whispering Palms
(Chalan Kiya), P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP
96950; and in case of failure to do so, judgement
will be rendered against you according to the
demand of the COMPLAINT, which has been
filed with the Clerk of Court.

So ORDERED this 21st day of July, 2009.

/s/ Bernadita A. Sablan
Clerk of Court

www.saipantribune.com

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COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION, PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM
P.O. BOX 501370 CK, SAIPAN, MP 96950
HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE


**JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
PROMOTIONAL & OPEN COMPETITIVE
EXAMINATION ANNOUNCEMENT**

It is the policy of the Board of Education, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, that the Public School Personnel System shall be applied and administered according to the principles of equal employment opportunity as defined by the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Public Law 6 - 10, regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, handicap or place of origin. Applicants for this position must be a U.S. Citizen or be eligible and authorized to work in the U.S., including the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Announcement No: **PSS - 2009 - 052** Application & Employment Type: **Non-Certified**

Position Title: **LEGAL COUNSEL (Amendment / Re-Announcement I)**

Pay Level/Step: **UNGRADED** Per Annum Salary: **\$40,000.00-\$60,000.00**

Opening Date: **JULY 20, 2009** Closing Date: **AUGUST 20, 2009**

Location: **PSS - BOARD OF EDUCATION**

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Minimum Requirements:

Graduation from an U.S. accredited college or university with a Juris Doctorate degree. Applicant must be a member in good standing of the CNMI bar or a member of a state bar and qualify to practice law in the CNMI. The applicant must also have at least five (5) years legal work experience, preferably for government entities handling government contracts and/or education issues.

***Detailed job description with qualification requirements can be obtained at PSS Human Resources Office at the 3rd Floor Retirement Building, Capitol Hill, or download it online www.pss.cnmi.mp/humanresources**

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Yang topples Tiger in the PGA



CHASKA, Minn. (AP)—Y.E. Yang shook his fists and shouted with joy over a victory felt around the world.

Equally stunning was the sight of Tiger Woods, standing over the final putt of the PGA Championship with nothing at stake.

The final major of the year delivered a pair of shocking developments Sunday.

Yang, a 37-year-old from South Korea who was in PGA Tour qualifying school nine months ago, became the first Asian-born player to capture a major title with a series of spectacular shots on the back nine of Hazeltine.

Even more memorable was the guy he beat.

Woods was 14-0 when he was atop the leaderboard going into the final round of a major. He had never lost any tournament on American soil when leading by more than one shot.

Yang showed everyone how to beat him, from the stars who had failed so many times over the last dozen years, and perhaps to an emerging generation of golfers in Asia, the fastest-growing golf market in the world.

"It's not like you're in an octagon where you're fighting against Tiger and he's going to bite you, or swing at you with his 9-iron," Yang said through an interpreter. "The worst that I could do was just lose to Tiger. So I really had nothing much at stake."

When he saw Woods in birdie range at the 14th, Yang chipped in from 60 feet for eagle to take the lead. Clinging to a one-shot lead, a tree slightly blocking his view of the flag on the 18th hole and Woods in the fairway, Yang hit the shot of his life. His 3-iron hybrid cleared a bunker and settled 12 feet away.

And with that, Yang slew golf's giant.

Yang made the final birdie to close with a 2-under 70, giving him a three-shot victory when Woods missed yet another short par putt and had a 75, his worst score ever in the final round of the major when he was in the last group.

"All the other 14 major championships I've won, I've putted well for the entire week," Woods said. "And today, that didn't happen."

Instead, it was Yang posing with the trophy and giving the longest press conference of his life. When he finally left Hazeltine, another celebration awaited. He has been eating every night at the Hoban Korean Restaurant, and the owners kept the doors open.

"They were supposed to be closed," said Michael Yim, an IMG agent who works with Yang. "All the staff and the owner's family were outside the store, giving us a standing ovation. They said, 'If you can come at 3 in the morning, we would have kept it open.' Their eyes were teary. What just happened is huge."

For Woods, it was the second time he has finished runner-up in the PGA Championship at Hazeltine, both times to a surprise winner. Seven years ago, he birdied the last four holes and came up one short of Rich Beem.

This time, Woods made one mistake after another over the last four holes, mostly with his putter.

"I did everything I needed to do, except for getting the ball in the hole," Woods said. "Just didn't make the putts when I needed to make them."

Yang's victory is massive for Asia. Perhaps even more significant is the way he stood up to Woods, the world's No. 1 player whose heritage is half-Asian through his Thai-born mother.

Yang and K.J. Choi are the only PGA Tour players who learned golf in South Korea before coming to America. South Koreans have had far more success on the LPGA Tour, with seven players combining to win 11 majors.

"Golf in Asia has been growing steadily, so to have the guy who finally found a way to beat Tiger on Sunday is so big for the region," Geoff Ogilvy said. "It's hard for us here in the U.S. to imagine the impact this will have."

His victory came four days after golf was recommended to become part of the Olympics in 2016.

Yang was No. 110 in the world, his only victory on the PGA Tour coming in March at the Honda Classic, on a course across the street from headquarters of the PGA of America. He was best known for holding off Woods at the HSBC Champions in China three years ago.

This stage was far bigger and Yang was even better.

He trailed by two shots going into the final round, caught Woods at the turn, and was tied with five holes to



Y.E. Yang, of South Korea, reacts after his eagle chip shot on the 14th green during the final round of the 91st PGA Championship at the Hazeltine National Golf Club in Chaska, Minn., Sunday, Aug. 16, 2009.

Kenny Perry was poised to become the oldest Masters champion at 48 until Angel Cabrera beat him in a playoff. Phil Mickelson, reeling from news that his wife was diagnosed with breast cancer, was on the verge of finally winning the U.S. Open until Lucas Glover outplayed him over the final few holes. And just last month, 59-year-old Tom Watson was an 8-foot par putt away from winning the British Open, then lost in a playoff to Stewart Cink.

Woods losing a two-shot lead in the final round of a major? That was unthinkable—until a breezy afternoon at Hazeltine.

Yang finished at 8-under 280 and won \$1.35 million, along with a five-year exemption on the PGA Tour and the majors. He became the first player since John Daly in 1991 to win the PGA Championship after going to Q-school the previous year.

One more bonus: His victory put him on the International team for the Presidents Cup in October in San Francisco.

Asian-born players had come close in the majors - Liang-Huan Lu of Taiwan finishing one shot behind Lee Trevino at the 1971 British Open, and T.C. Chen's famous two-chip gaffe that cost him a chance at the 1985 U.S. Open, where he was runner-up to Andy North.

This could be a big breakthrough for Asian players, especially with a World Golf Championship starting this year in China.

As for the PGA Championship, what remains is whether it will be remembered more for Yang's victory for Woods losing a 54-hole lead for the first time in a major.

"He went out there and executed his game plan," Woods said. "He was doing exactly what you have to do, especially in these conditions. I think he played beautifully."

This was a two-man race throughout the back nine, especially after defending champion Padraig Harrington imploded in the group ahead of them on the par-3 eighth. Harrington was one shot behind when he hit two shots in the water - including a chip from behind the green, just as he did last week at Firestone - and took a quintuple-bogey 8. He shot a 78.

Woods three-putted for bogey at No. 4 for the second straight day and made bogey from the bunker at No. 8, sending the final pairing to the back nine in a tie for the lead.

Woods regained the lead with a 3-wood on the 606-yard 11th hole onto the green, only to give it back with a bogey on the 12th after he hit a wild hook into the trees. He twice missed birdie putts inside 10 feet—at No. 10 and No. 13—and then momentum shifted to Yang.

With the tees again moved forward to 301 yards, Yang came up just short. He watched Woods play a good bunker shot to 8 feet, then knocked it his chip.

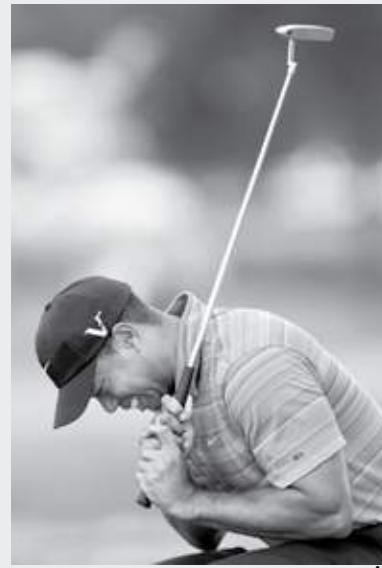
"That's when I thought, 'I do have a chance,'" Yang said.

He was steady. Woods was sloppy.

Woods chunked a 3-wood trying to get the green in two at the 15th, then missed another 10-foot birdie putt to tie. Both bogeyed the 17th hole, Woods with a shot he thought was pure until it landed into thick rough over the green.

"Tiger's good, but he could always have a bad day," Yang said. "Guess this is one of those days."

Yes indeed, Woods is human after all



Tiger Woods reacts after missing a birdie putt on the second green during the final round of the 91st PGA Championship at the Hazeltine National Golf Club in Chaska, Minn., Sunday, Aug. 16, 2009.

He never let anyone crack his intimidating facade.

Until now.

His remarkable streak of winning 14 major championships while leading going into the final round is over, undone by a balky putter and a player who not only dared to stand up to him but delivered a final blow so stunning it will live on in golf lore. A lot of players had the game to beat Woods on Sunday in a major, but Yang was the only one with the mental toughness to believe it could actually be done.

He may have been among the most improbable of challengers, but they are the kind who always seemed to give

"This might be my last win as a golfer," Yang said. "But it sure is a great day."

Yang still had enough strength left to hoist his golf bag over his head, and later the 44-pound Wanamaker Trophy. After a long and tearful embrace with his wife,

Woods the most trouble. Bob May nearly stole a PGA Championship from him in Kentucky, and Rocco Mediate had him beat on the California coast until Woods sank a miracle putt on the final hole at the U.S. Open last year, forcing a playoff which Woods won.

Like Yang, they played as though they had nothing to lose because they didn't. The others did, and it was usually the fear of being humiliated by Woods that did them in.

Not any more. The red shirt on Sunday will now come with a target.

On a breezy day outside Minneapolis, the Tiger mystique was shattered.

Yang wasn't about to claim credit for that, just as he wasn't going to claim credit for making the biggest statement ever by an Asian player in major championship golf. But he did spend countless hours visualizing what he would do if he ever got the chance to play against Woods. And when he did, Woods seemed so surprised that he had no clue what to do about it.

Maybe that's because on paper it was a complete mismatch.

Woods, raised from birth to be the best player ever, led after all three rounds and was so good on Sundays at majors that this one seemed like little more than a victory lap. Yang, who took up golf at age 19 only after tearing up his leg while trying to become a bodybuilder, was in qualifying school last year and had never sniffed the lead before at a major championship.

But it was Yang who kept calm even though he could barely sleep the night before because he was so excited by it all.

Young Ju Park, he walked across a bridge saluting thousands of fans who couldn't

believe what they saw.

In a year of spoilers at the majors, this might have been the biggest: Yang topped the mighty Tiger Woods.

play when Yang chipped in for eagle on the 14th. When it looked as though nerves were getting the best of him on a three-putt bogey at the 17th, he delivered his two most important shots that brought him an unlikely victory.

Rangers pass Red Sox in wild-card race



ARLINGTON,
Texas (AP)—Ian
Kinsler homered
and drove in two
runs and Dustin Nippert pitched six
solid innings as Texas passed Boston in
the AL wild-card race with a 4-3 win.

The Rangers took two of three in the weekend series to move a half-game ahead of Boston.

Kinsler, back in the lineup one day after he was hit by a pitch that ricocheted off his head, went deep for the second straight day and had an RBI single in the third that gave Texas a 3-1 lead.

Taylor Teagarden also connected to help the Rangers win for the seventh time in 10 games.

Angels 17, Orioles 8

At Baltimore, Torii Hunter celebrated his return from the disabled list by driving in the go-ahead run in a nine-run 13th inning as the Los Angeles Angels outlasted the Baltimore Orioles 17-8 in the American League on Sunday.

Chone Figgins had four hits for the Angels, including the 1,000th of his career, an RBI single in the sixth inning. Los Angeles' leadoff hitter scored three runs and drove in three.

After missing 32 games with a groin injury, Hunter had two hits and two RBIs in his first action since July 7. He lined into a double play with the bases loaded in the 11th but redeemed himself with a bases-loaded bouncer up the middle in the 13th off Brian Bass (5-3).

Royals 3, Tigers 2, 10 innings

At Detroit, Josh Anderson scored the go-ahead run in the 10th inning on third baseman Ryan Raburn's third error of the game to lift Kansas City to a victory over Detroit.

With one out in the 10th, Anderson reached on a dribbler down the third-base line and David DeJesus followed with a grounder through Raburn's legs. Both runners moved up on Willie Bloomquist's hit to Fernando Rodney (2-3).

Rays 5, Blue Jays 2

At St. Petersburg, Florida, Gregg Zaun had a pinch-hit grand slam in the eighth inning to lead Tampa Bay past Toronto.

It was Zaun's fifth career grand slam and first since Sept. 6 while with Toronto against the Rays.

Ben Zobrist had a one-out single off Brandon League (1-5) and went to third on Carlos Pena's double. After Willy Aybar was intentionally walked to load the bases and pinch-hitter Gabe Gross struck out during a 10-pitch at-bat, Zaun sent a 3-2 pitch into the right field seats.

Indians 7, Twins 4

At Minneapolis, Kelly Shoppach and Luis Valbuena hit back-to-back homers, and Grady Sizemore added a two-run shot in a six-run third inning, as Cleveland beat Minnesota.

Shoppach homered on the first pitch of the third from Minnesota starter Nick Blackburn (8-8). Valbuena followed two pitches later, and after Blackburn hit Andy Marte with a pitch, Sizemore connected for his 17th of the season.

Asdrubal Cabrera and Jhonny Peralta added RBI hits in the inning to make



Texas Rangers Ian Kinsler, right, gets congratulations from teammate Hank Blalock (9) after hitting a home run in the second inning of a baseball game against the Boston Red Sox in Arlington, Texas, Sunday, Aug. 16, 2009. The Ranger won 4-3. AP

a winner of Aaron Laffey (7-3).

Sizemore finished with a pair of hits, a walk, two RBIs and two runs scored.

Athletics 3, White Sox 2

At Oakland, California, Mark Ellis lined a homer just over the left-field wall with two outs in the ninth inning as Oakland avoided a three-game sweep with a win over Chicago.

Ellis hit his third career game-winning homer and first since June 8 last year against the Angels off Bobby Jenks (2-4), who had previously posted five straight scoreless outings.

Scott Hairston hit a tying double with two outs in the eighth off former A's closer Octavio Dotel and All-Star Andrew Bailey (5-3) pitched the ninth for the victory.

Mariners 10, Yankees 3

At Seattle, Jose Lopez had three hits and three RBIs as Seattle beat New York, ending the Yankees' five-game winning streak and handing Joba Chamberlain his first loss in two months.

Doug Fister, making his second career start, held one of baseball's best lineups to three runs in seven innings for his first major league win. Seattle is six games behind AL wild card-leading Texas after its biggest win

over the Yankees in eight years.

Dodgers 9, Diamondback 3

At Phoenix, Randy Wolf finished a triple short of the cycle and pitched neatly into the eighth innings to lead the Los Angeles Dodgers to a 9-3 victory over the Arizona Diamondbacks on Sunday that snapped a three-game skid in the American League.

Wolf (7-6) retired 20 straight batters after Ryan Roberts singled with one out in the first inning.

Phillies 4, Braves 1

At Atlanta, Ryan Howard homered twice and drove in four runs to back rookie J.A. Happ's strong 7 2-3 strong innings as Philadelphia downed Atlanta.

Struggling closer Brad Lidge earned an easy save, getting the final out.

Philadelphia dropped the Braves six games back in the National League East and kept Atlanta from tying Florida for second place in the division.

Astros 8, Brewers 5

At Milwaukee, Geoff Blum drove in four runs and Hunter Pence hit a two-run homer in the eighth inning as Houston rallied to beat Milwaukee.

Blum hit a three-run homer in the

sixth and an RBI single in the ninth for Houston, which managed to get the win despite a shaky start by Roy Oswalt. Lance Berkman walked twice and scored three times.

Marlins 10, Rockies 3

At Miami, Clint Barmes and Brad Hawpe each hit two-run homers as Colorado beat Florida for a split of a doubleheader.

The Marlins won the opener 10-3 behind homers from Hanley Ramirez and Chris Coghlan and a two-run single by Chris Volstad in a five-run second inning.

Starter Jorge De La Rosa got his ninth win in 10 decisions as the Rockies remained 1 1/2 games ahead of San Francisco in the NL wild-card race. Florida fell two games back.

Nationals 5, Reds 4

At Cincinnati, Ryan Zimmerman drove in two runs with help from a defensive lapse by Cincinnati as Washington rallied for a win.

Reliever Arthur Rhodes (0-1) came on to face slugger Adam Dunn with one out and the Reds leading 4-3 in the eighth inning. Rhodes brushed Dunn with a pitch, and Josh Willingham followed with a single

to right—his third hit of the day.

Mets 3, Giants 2

At New York, Daniel Murphy hit a game-ending RBI single in the ninth inning and Luis Castillo made up for David Wright's absence with a rare two-run homer as the scrappy New York beat San Francisco.

Francisco Rodriguez (3-4) struck out the side in the ninth to earn the win, one day after giving up Bengie Molina's homer in the 10th inning of a 5-4 loss.

Castillo connected with two outs in the fifth inning off Jonathan Sanchez for his first homer since May 30, 2008, at Shea Stadium.

Cardinals 7, Padres 5

At St. Louis, Colby Rasmus' two-run homer capped a three-run ninth inning off San Diego All-Star closing pitcher Heath Bell to give St. Louis a victory and a three-game sweep.

Adrian Gonzalez hit his 32nd homer and singled three times for the Padres, who have lost five straight and have dropped nine in a row in St. Louis. Bell (4-2) lost in his first game in St. Louis since taking the loss in the All-Star game July 14, blowing only his second save in 31 chances and first since May 30 against the Rockies.

Bolt shatters 100-meter world record

BERLIN (AP)—Usain Bolt crossed the finish line, saw his record-setting time on the clock and spread his arms as if he were soaring like a bird.

About all this guy can't do is fly. And by saving his celebration until after the finish line this time, he showed how fast a man really can go on two feet.

The Jamaican shattered the world record again Sunday, running 100 meters in 9.58 seconds at the world championships to turn his much-anticipated race against Tyson Gay into a one-man show.

That was 0.11 seconds faster than the mark he set last year at the Beijing Olympics—the biggest improvement in the 100-meter record since electronic timing began in 1968.

Gay, his closest rival, broke the American mark with his 9.71 performance and still looked like he was jogging—finishing a few big strides behind Bolt in second place.

Bolt's only competition these days is the clock.

And when he's really trying, not hot-dogging it over the line the way he did in China, even time itself doesn't stand a chance.

"I don't run for world records," said Bolt, who crossed the line with a slight breeze at his back.

Yet those records always seem to find him.

He thinks he can go even lower.

"I know I said 9.4," Bolt said, grinning. "You never know. I'll just keep on working."

Last summer at Beijing, Bolt shut his race down early, waving his arms and celebrating about 10 meters before he got to the line. Some, like Jacques Rogge of the International Olympic Committee, viewed it as a sign of bad sportsmanship. Most saw it as a welcome sigh of relief for a sport that needed some good news after years of doping and scandal.

Even this week, the Jamaican track team was making headlines for the wrong reasons—a complicated doping case. Then a group of athletes who were uninvited to the worlds by the country's track officials because they didn't participate in team training camp got reinvited at the request of international officials.

Bolt made everyone forget about that and showed, once again, what a great sport track can be when the focus is on the track, not doping control and the meeting rooms.

Bolt ran his latest unforgettable race at Olympic Stadium in Berlin, the history-filled home of the 1936 Olympics where Jesse Owens became the world's biggest track star. Bolt lives in Owens' stratosphere now, having set the 100 world record three times and also owning the 200-

Jamaica's Usain Bolt poses beside the indicating board after setting a new Men's 100m World Record in the Men's final at the World Athletics Championships in Berlin on Sunday, Aug. 16, 2009.

meter record thanks to the 19.30 he ran in Beijing to break Michael Johnson's 12-year-old mark.

Now he has added the world championship, last won by Gay in 2007, to his Olympic title.

A Stanford professor estimated he could've gone 9.55 if he'd run full out through the line in Beijing. Bolt almost made that guy look like a genius.

"He's like a created game person," American Darvis Patton said. "I can't imagine going 9.71 and not winning. That will win every race in history except for today (and at the Olympics)."

It's easy to see why Bolt is such a crowd favorite. He's a colorful character who loves to entertain. The track is his stage and he didn't disappoint Sunday.

Before climbing into the blocks, Bolt gave spectators a quick wave and did his trademark bow-and-arrow pose.

That drew big applause.

Then the real show started.

Unlike the Olympics, when he skidded from the blocks, Bolt burst out this time in his yam-colored Pumas, opening a sizable lead on the field after 20 meters.

From there, it could have been a stroll in the park. But there was no letting up this time. Before crossing the line, he glanced to his right to check on Gay once—not in the picture—and then back at the clock. His face lit up as he spotted the digits "9.58" appear on the screen next to the track.

The party was on. He grabbed a flag and did a victory lap with countryman Asafa Powell, who finished with the bronze (9.84).

They even stopped midway down the track and did a little dance number. Too bad the song wasn't from rapper Akon, who wrote about the sprinter in a song, the lyric going, "Quicker than Usain Bolt, the fastest thing runnin'."

Next came pictures—lots of flashes popping—and hugs as Bolt greeted everyone who called his name—and they were numerous. The entire victory lap took about 20 minutes.

Or about 19:50:42 longer than it took to run his 100.

Standing back at the finish line, waiting for him to finish up, was Gay. He paced around, clearly agitated.

Not in anger at losing, though.

No, he wanted off the track, but wasn't allowed by an official. Gay was quite complimentary of his rival in a race that lived up to the hype.



Vick gets extra work at Eagles' practice



PHILADELPHIA (AP)—

Donovan McNabb took a knee on the grass and was joined to his right by Michael Vick.

Vick removed his helmet on a humid Sunday afternoon, smiling and laughing as McNabb cracked jokes to the delight of his Philadelphia Eagles teammates. At one point,

McNabb threw himself on the ground in what was likely part of the punchline to a story that had Vick somber and contrite two days earlier—grinning in the baking sun.

If animal activists want Vick treated as a social pariah, they won't get any assistance inside the Eagles locker room. Vick is simply one of the boys with the birds—practicing plays, sprinting in the heat, and absorbing the hits of some good-natured ribbing.

After completing some short passes, cornerback Asante Samuel yelled out, "that's not the same quarterback from the commercial!" Vick's time as a former pitcher for a sports drink included a commercial where he tossed footballs from the field over the stadium. He attempted no passes that deep

—or had the help of digital wizardry—in his second practice since signing Thursday for \$1.6 million with a team option for a second year at \$5.2 million.

Vick earned some admirers when he connected with wide receiver Brandon Gibson for 25 yards on a tough sideline route.

"There you go! There you go! Yes!" wide receivers coach

David Culley said, patting Vick on the shoulders.

Vick went 1 for 2 on a goal-line drill as practice closed. One pass into the corner was broken up by cornerback Dimitri Patterson. Vick's next pass attempt was tipped by Patterson, before it was caught for a touchdown.

"He flicks the ball a little like a big kid playing amongst little kids," wide receiver Jason Avant said.

Vick, who did not speak to reporters, did have some extra



Philadelphia Eagles quarterback Michael Vick throws during practice at the Eagles' practice facility, Sunday, Aug. 16, 2009, in Philadelphia.

work. Vick, wearing a white long-sleeve shirt under his red No. 7 jersey, spent 20 more minutes on the field after the 110-minute practice ended, throwing passes to Eagles offensive quality coach Doug Pederson. One incompletion was quickly followed by Vick hitting the ground for a series of push-ups.

Eagles coach Andy Reid said Vick needed to shed about two pounds, and the disgraced QB needs to play catch-up and learn the intricate playbook—two reasons for staying late while the

rest of the team hit the showers.

A three-time Pro Bowl pick during six seasons with the Atlanta Falcons, Vick served 18 months in federal prison for running a dogfighting ring. He was reinstated last month by the NFL after being out of action since 2006.

Vick struck instant friendships with his forgiving teammates. Wide receiver DeSean Jackson was attached at the hip every time they weren't involved in a play.

"It's a lot more than just football," Jackson said. "We can just get out there and chill a bit. I can talk to him and get to know him a little bit."

The Eagles returned to some sense of normalcy Sunday. No protesters waved signs or brought their dogs outside the team practice complex. The media contingent was reduced to mostly the regular beat writers, not the 100-plus members who stuffed the auditorium for Vick's news conference on Friday. That number should swell on Monday when McNabb addresses the media for the first time since officially having Vick as a practice teammate.

McNabb again threw his support behind Vick on his blog Sunday night. McNabb said he explained his position to Reid in mid-July why Vick and the Eagles would be a strong match. They discussed Vick again one more time in training camp.

"I know what Michael was accused and convicted of, and I don't like it at all," McNabb wrote. "I have had dogs all my life and consider myself a dog-lover. I am in no way excusing Michael for what happened but

he was punished for his crime. He served his time and, at least I believe, has learned from it. I believe Michael is a changed person and that he deserves a chance at putting his life back together."

The Eagles believe they help rehabilitate Vick's image, and that he can help them win that elusive first Super Bowl.

Reid has been adamant that Vick was signed to play quarterback, even though his speed and dazzling playmaking make him a better fit as a gimmick player than a pocket passer. Offensive coordinator Marty Mornhinweg expected Vick to be worked into the Wildcat offense. The offense is usually a deceptive, single-wing formation that snaps the ball directly to the running back and can turn quarterbacks into wide receivers.

And it makes an all-purpose player like Vick become the most unpredictable player on the field.

"Just being on that other sideline, from a defensive standpoint, dangerous, scared are all words that describe the feelings running through defensive coaches," Eagles defensive coordinator Sean McDermott said.

And what about special teams? Coordinator Ted Daisher said Vick has the athletic ability to play on special teams, but deferred questions about Vick's specific role to Reid.

The Eagles have time to figure it all out. Once the season begins, Vick can participate in all team activities except games. NFL commissioner Roger Goodell said he would consider Vick for full reinstatement by Week 6 (Oct. 18-19) at the latest.

"We just can't wait to have him all the time," Avant said.

SPORTS BRIEFS**MLB STANDINGS****AMERICAN LEAGUE****East Division**

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	74	44	.627	-
Boston	66	51	.564	7 1/2
Tampa Bay	63	54	.538	10 1/2
Toronto	55	61	.474	18
Baltimore	48	69	.410	25 1/2

Central Division

Detroit	62	55	.530	-
Chicago	60	58	.508	2 1/2
Minnesota	56	61	.479	6
Cleveland	51	66	.436	11
Kansas City	46	71	.393	16

West Division

Los Angeles	70	45	.609	-
Texas	66	50	.569	4 1/2
Seattle	61	57	.517	10 1/2
Oakland	52	65	.444	19

NATIONAL LEAGUE**East Division**

Philadelphia	66	49	.575	-
Florida	63	55	.534	4 1/2
Atlanta	61	56	.521	6
New York	55	62	.470	12
Washington	43	75	.364	24 1/2

Central Division

St. Louis	67	52	.563	-
Chicago	60	55	.522	5
Milwaukee	58	59	.496	8
Houston	57	61	.483	9 1/2
Cincinnati	50	67	.427	16
Pittsburgh	46	70	.397	19 1/2

West Division

Los Angeles	70	48	.593	-
Colorado	65	53	.551	5
San Francisco	63	54	.538	6 1/2
Arizona	54	64	.462	16
San Diego	49	70	.412	21 1/2

Yesterday's Games

Texas 4, Boston 3
LA Angels 17, Baltimore 8
Kansas City 3, Detroit 2
Tampa Bay 5, Toronto 2
Cleveland 7, Minnesota 4
Oakland 3, Chi White Sox 2
Seattle 10, NY Yankees 3
LA Dodgers 9, Arizona 3
Philadelphia 4, Atlanta 1
Houston 8, Milwaukee 5
Florida 10, Colorado 3
Washington 5, Cincinnati 4
NY Mets 3, San Francisco 2
St. Louis 7, San Diego 5

U.S. PGA CHAMPIONSHIPS SCORES

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHASKA, Minnesota (AP) — Scores Sunday after the final round of the \$7.5 million PGA Championship at the 7,674-yard, par 72 Hazeltine National Golf Club:

Y.E. Yang	73-70-67-70	280
Tiger Woods	67-70-71-75	283
Lee Westwood	70-72-73-70	285
Rory McIlroy	71-73-71-70	285
Lucas Glover	71-70-71-74	286
Martin Kaymer	73-70-71-73	287
Ernie Els (98)	75-68-70-74	287
Soren Kjeldsen	70-73-70-74	287
Henrik Stenson	73-71-68-75	287
John Merrick	72-72-74-70	288
Dustin Johnson	72-73-73-70	288
Zach Johnson	74-73-70-71	288
Francesco Molinari	74-73-69-72	288

LOCAL SCORES**IT&E INTER-GOV'T/BIZ LEAGUE STANDINGS**

IT&E	2	0
Docomo	2	0
MBI	1	0
CHC	1	0
Tinian	1	0
Hyatt	1	0
PSS	1	2
DCCA	0	0
Customs	0	0
CPA	0	2
ARFF	0	2
BOG	0	3

NETTERS

From Page 28

top seed in Pool B in the boys' 14-and-under division, won all his two games in the opening day. He topped Krishan Raju of Fiji, 6-0, 6-1, and then nailed a similar straight set victory over the Cook Islands' Alex Beddoes, 6-3, 6-2.

Also sweeping his Pool C games was Rafael Jones, who

prevailed over Kiribati's Teabatibunga Tito, 6-2, 6-0, and the Solomon Islands' Johnny Newton, 6-2, 6-1.

Pool A's top seed and last year's third placer in the girls' 14-and-under division Thea Minor started her POJC bid with back-to-back wins. Minor posted similar wins over Fiji's Ashmita Rajan and Samoa's River Burich, 6-0, 6-1.

Duplicating Minor's feat was Melody Johnson, who recorded

swered at press time.

"Maybe fatigue caught up with her in Berlin after competing in Australia. The cold weather may also be a factor why she got sick. I hope she is already okay when she returns here on Wednesday," Yvette said.

Temperature in Berlin last weekend ranged between 21 to 23 degree Celsius.

Yvette and teammate Clayton Kenty arrived in Berlin on Wednesday after participating in the Oceania Regional Cham-

Tinian, Hyatt win debuts, Docomo tops ARFF

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Tinian and Hyatt Regency Saipan won their debuts in the 2009 IT&E Inter-Government/Business Basketball League after outclassing separates foes over the weekend at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Tinian played its first game in the 12-team league on Friday and defeated Public School System, 78-65. Hyatt had its first match of the season on Saturday and outplayed CPA-Accounting, 77-68.

After a 15-all deadlock in the first period, Tinian began asserting its might over PSS in the second period behind Leo Pas-

cua and Rengul Reyes' baskets. Pascua hit back-to-back triples and scored eight points in the second canto, while Reyes added seven to give Tinian a 41-30 halftime lead.

Tinian kept the upper-hand in the third period, 60-52, as Pascua continued to wax hot from downtown, adding three more triples.

Pascua was then held to only one triple in the payoff period, but his teammates, Reyes, and Nazario Borja, stepped up to preserve the win. Borja made eight of his 18 points in the fourth canto, while Reyes chipped in six.

**MDX**

From Page 28

Coming off a long break, MDX was a bit sluggish at the start of the semis match, allowing Bayani to gain control of the first period. Bayani managed to lead MDX in the first 10 minutes of play despite the absence of Darwin Barbo and Ryan Sanciangco.

Ronald Delos Reyes took the budget for Bayani early on, firing eight points in the first period. His buzzer-beating triple gave Bayani a 27-19 lead at the end of the first canto.

However, MDX started to show its true colors in the second period, canning long jumpers, having good ball movement, and running the breaks smoothly to grab the driver's seat.

A 15-4 salvo in the first five minutes of the second quarter put MDX in the lead for the first time, 33-32. The pennant champion did a great job protecting the lead in the second canto despite the arrival of Barbo and Sanciangco in the closing minutes of the first half.

MDX started the second half with a 45-39 advantage and it padded its to as much as 10, 64-54, on Wowie Abuel's back-to-

back triple and Bart Demapan's baseline jumper, with less than two minutes left in the third.

Sanciangco led an 8-4 wind-up to keep Bayani afloat, entering the fourth canto.

In the payoff period, Bayani tried to mount a comeback, but each time it moved closer, MDX always found ways to widen the gap.

The last time Bayani inched in closer was at the 83-77 tally, after Dennis Vinas split his charities. Bayani could have cut the lead to four, but Sanciangco missed two free throws in an earlier trip to the foul line.

After Vinas' miss in his second free throw attempt, Bayani kept the possession, as Bon Tamayo touched the ball last before it went out to the baseline after a loose ball play. However, instead of going for a quick two-point basket with 1:17 left on the clock, Vinas opted for a triple and missed.

The foiled triple resulted to an MDX's fastbreak play, as Demapan quickly passed the ball to the sprinting Tamayo even before James Abuel could commit a pre-emptive foul against the former.

Delos Reyes also missed on a 3-point attempt and again MDX countered with a fastbreak play, as Demapan's unselfish play

twin wins in Pool D. Johnson beat Tonga's Simuoko Afemui, 6-1, 6-0, and Kiribati's Makurita Ioaa, 6-1, 6-4.

Members of the CNMI's 18-and-under team had mixed fortunes.

As expected, boys' 18-and-

under favorite Ji Hoon Heo cruised past foes in Day 1, thumping Fiji's Shival Krishna, 6-0, 6-1, and shutting out the Cook Islands' Fred Pickering, 6-0, 6-0.

Jodel Fernandez also lost her

POJC debut, bowing to Ameri-

can Samoa's Angie Roberts,

2-6, 2-6. However, Fernandez

redeemed herself in the second

game, thwarting Priscilla Vosa

Benjie Decena



Rangers pass Red Sox in wild card race

Ian Kinsler homered and drove in two runs and Dustin Nippert pitched six solid innings as Texas passed Boston in the AL wild-card race with a 4-3 win. **25**

Saipan Tribune Sports

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

CNMI Junior All-Stars crush Italy

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI Junior All-Stars had a rousing start in the 2009 World Series after routing Italy, 13-2, on Sunday at the Heritage Park in Taylor, Michigan.

The CNMI batters played in the last game on Day 1 at 8:15pm on Sunday (around 4am on Monday on Saipan) and the match ended almost midnight Michigan time, according to a news release from the website of the host city. No other details were mentioned in the release, but it stated that despite Italy showing some moments in the late night game, the CNMI youth sluggers turned out to better players.

The CNMI Junior All-Star Team is composed of Christian Mizer, Jeremy and Henry Rabauliman, Lamarc Ig-

uel, Frankie Camacho, Ricardo Dela Cruz, Aldelbert Lizama, Brian Camacho, Alan Aguon, Jared Sablan, Patrick Tenorio, Arthur Jebehn, and Poland Masaharu. Oliver Secharmidal and Bernard Cabrera are the coaches, while Thelma Mizer is the team manager.

The CNMI sluggers competed against the representatives of Friuli Venezia Giulia Little League of Friuli Venezia Giulia, one of the 20 regions in the most north-eastern part of Italy



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

From left, CNMI Junior All-Stars' Jeremy Rabauliman, Jared Sablan, and Patrick Tenorio, pose for a group photo during a break in their training session at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield last week.

and borders Austria to the North and Slovenia to the East.

Three more games were played on Sunday after an elaborated opening ceremony on Saturday.

In the United States Pool, Petroglyph LL of Albuquerque, New Mexico, defeated Easley LL of Easley, South Carolina, 7-6. In the other game in the U.S. bracket, Middlebury LL of

Middlebury, Indiana, downed Holbrook LL of Jackson, New Jersey, 7-2.

In the International Pool, where the CNMI is bracketed along with Puerto Rico, Canada, and Aruba, the Juan A. Bibiloni LL of Yabucoa, Puerto Rico, topped Coquitlam LL of Coquitlam, British Columbia, Canada, 8-2.

On Monday, the CNMI batters were scheduled to duel Aruba

in the second game. The CNMI will take a break on Tuesday before returning to action on Wednesday against Coquitlam Little League. The Asia-Pacific champions' last assignment will be Juan A. Bibiloni Little League on Thursday.

The Top 2 placers in the two pools will advance to the cross-over semifinals.

See JUNIOR on Page 27



MDX-Chow Queen's Kae Bernardo goes for a reverse layup against Bayani's Marlon Cabrera during their semis game in the UFO caging on Sunday night at the JP Center Basketball Court.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

MDX sets title duel against SIP

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Pennant champion MDX arranged a "battle royale" against defending titlist Samahang Ilokano at Pangasinense Basketball League.

The Chow Queen Bakery-supported MDX downed Bayani, 94-80, in their playoff game on Sunday night at the JP Center Basketball Court to notch the second finals seat. SIP took the first finals berth after a 98-87 semis win over Northern Marianas Bartenders Association on Saturday.

The victory helped MDX keep its undefeated record in the seven-team league. The pennant champion swept the regular season and gained an automatic semis slot in the playoffs.

See MDX on Page 27

Yang topples Tiger in the PGA

Y.E. Yang shook his fists and shouted with joy over a victory felt around the world. Equally stunning was the sight of Tiger Woods, standing over the final putt of the PGA Championship with nothing at stake. **24**



CNMI netters sweep 14-and-under matches



Thea Minor, seen here warming-up for a local tournament, swept her opening-day matches in the 2009 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships in Lautoka, Fiji, yesterday.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO



yesterday at the Goodman Fielder International Regional Tennis Centre in Lautoka, Fiji.

Christian Miller, who is the

See NETTERS on Page 27

Yvonne misses World Championship race

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Yvonne Bennett, right, seen here racing against twin sister Yvette, missed the 100m qualifying race in the 12th IAAF World Championships in Athletics in Berlin, Germany on Sunday due to a cold.



Fatigue caught up with Yvonne

Bennett, forcing the CNMI sprinter to miss the qualifying race in the 12th IAAF World Championships in Athletics last Saturday in Berlin, Germany on Sunday.

Bennett was supposed to race on Heat 1 on Sunday at 12pm (8pm on Saipan), but she did not show up, leaving six runners to contest the 100m qualifying run.

According to Yvonne's sister, Yvette, her twin sister has been nursing a cold for the past three days.

"She has a cold for the past several days and probably her condition worsened on the

See YVONNE on Page 27